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75¢

Phanfone passes close to Saipan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tropical Storm Phanfone passed close to Saipan yesterday, bringing with it intermittent rain and gusty winds that triggered minor flooding in parts of the island. Public schools and some private ones sent home their students early, the government shut down "non-essential services" and activated evacuation shelters, and some private companies closed for day.

» Classes suspended, evacuation shelters activated

As of 7pm, there were only minor flooding in Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, San Antonio, Tanapag, and other villages on Saipan as heavy rains stopped at around 10am. Slight rains occurred late afternoon.

As of 8pm last night, tropical storm warning for Saipan and Tinian was

See PHANFONE on Page 4

Non-critical govt employees sent home

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Gov. Eloy S. Inos sent home non-critical government employees at 11:30am yesterday after upgrading Tropical Storm Phanfone from Condition III to Condition I.

"Because of the anticipated threat of Tropical Storm Phanfone and at

10:40 this morning, I upgraded said storm from Condition III to Condition I for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and the Northern Islands," a memo signed by Inos read. "I am releasing all non-critical employees at 11:30am to prepare and secure their homes and property."

He also advised the community to **See EMPLOYEES on Page 4**



Inos: Certified question for land comp law ready

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A certified question to the Supreme Court concerning the constitutionality

of a local law appropriating Managaha landing fees to pay Saipan landowners is just awaiting the consent of a member of the Legislature.

"We're ready. It's just that we're try-

ing to get a member of the Legislature to agree to sign off as an opposing party so that it meets the criteria for transmission of the certified question to the Supreme

See INOS on Page 4

DAY OF PROCLAMATIONS

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider are all smiles after joining Division of Energy staff, led by director Thelma Inos and deputy director Vincent Attao, in proclaiming October 2014 as CNMI Energy Action Month and Oct. 30, 2014, as Weatherization month yesterday morning at the conference room of the Governor's Office. Also in photo is Department of Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan. Yesterday was a day of proclamations as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and CNMI Humanities Month were also declared for October.

INSIDE



ASIA

Hong Kong protesters set a deadline for a response from the China government.

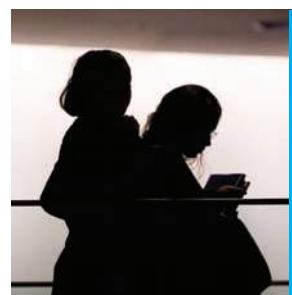
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WORLD

The Islamic State group is closing in on a Kurdish area of Syria.

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TEL: 235-6397
235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



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Local

Best Sunshine parent company absorbs \$2.5M loss

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The parent company of Saipan casino developer Best Sunshine International Ltd. recorded a net loss of \$2.5 million for the six months that ended on June 30, 2014, partly due to the associated growth pains in establishing its \$7.1-million integrated resort project on the island, according to GRRAsia, a website and newsletter about Asia's casino industry.

The story, which can be accessed via www.ggrasia.com/imperial-pacifics-first-half-loss-widens-to-us2-5-mln/, noted that Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd.'s \$2.5 million loss translates to HKD19.6 million. GRRAsia said the conglomerate posted a loss of HKD1.9 million a year earlier.

"Basic loss per share was HKD0.25 as compared with last period basic loss per share of HKD0.02," the company said in a filing with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange as reported by GRRAsia.

Formerly known as First Natural Foods Holdings Ltd., GRRAsia said Imperial Pacific is principally engaged in the sharing of the profit stream from

a junket operator in Macau, the development and operation of an integrated resort on the western Pacific island of Saipan, and in the processing and trading of food products.

The website further reported that while the company's revenue increased by 15.4 percent year-on-year to HKD293 million in the first half of 2014, Imperial Pacific had already warned of a significant loss due "to the increase in administrative and other expenses due to the development of integrated resort business on the island of Saipan."

When asked for comment, Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the CNMI is confident that Best Sunshine's parent company will rebound nicely from the losses it incurred in the six-month period.

"We expect Best Sunshine's parent company will recoup its costs once operations are underway. As is with any new business venture, there are inherent costs involved. Manageable risks and incurred costs are mitigated by the company's management. We look forward to having said company begin construction soon," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The CNMI Lottery Com-

mission awarded an exclusive casino license to Best Sunshine last July.

According to GRRAsia, Imperial Pacific said Best Sunshine recorded a loss of HKD14 million in the six months to June 30, as the project for the integrated resort was under development stage.

The food processing business also contributed for the increase in the half-year loss, GRRAsia reported. The segment recorded a loss of approximately

HKD14.1 million in the first half of 2014.

In its interim report, Imperial Pacific confirmed that it will allocate more resources to the gaming business, especially for development of the integrated resort on Saipan. GRRAsia said the conglomerate would seek potential investors to dispose of part or all of its food processing and trading business.

Land shopping

Meanwhile, Inos said Best Sunshine is still looking for public land it could lease to finally start its casino project.

The timeline is still the same. At this point we're waiting for Best Sunshine to identify a property where they will be build the development," he said in an interview with reporters yesterday at the Governor's Office conference room.

Inos also defended Department of Public Lands' decision to offer over 20 hectares of public lands south of Mariana

Resort & Spa in Marpi to Best Sunshine.

"That property was out on tender in early spring. E Land was offered [the land] after Sunshine 100 turned it over. ... It took E Land awhile to accept but no further communication was received from E Land as to project development plans and so forth. In the meantime, there's a need for Best Sunshine to get its project going. That was the reason for communicating

See **BEST** on Page 4

Florida firm interested in giving loan to CUC

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board disclosed Tuesday that a Florida-based financing firm has expressed interest in providing CUC with a possible loan to fund its projects.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said that Capital Projects Finance Authority has gotten in touch CUC about possibly loaning CUC the funds it needs for some of its stalled projects.

Fletcher told board members that, as far as financial

organizations are concerned, CUC is interested.

"We are interested but there are many issues involved so we need to discuss this with CPFA on the loan they are offering," he said.

CPFA describes itself on its website as "a public body corporate and politic" based in Haven, Florida, that was created for the purpose of making loans to qualified public agencies in Florida or the United States. They provide financing for capital projects.

Fletcher said CUC would also need to do some sort of re-

quest for proposal.

CUC board member Adelina Roberto recommended that they should at least write to CPFA about their proposal.

CUC board chair David Sablan Jr. said they could review the plan and its terms and conditions and discuss it before making any decision.

Sablan said that they have invited CPFA representatives but due to the unavailability of a local representative for the company, no discussion or presentation was ever made.

"We have to consider. If we start talking with these people

and start talking in details, we could jeopardize their chance in participating in any loan proposal to us because it would be a conflict of interest on their part," Sablan said.

According to Sablan, CPFA has a representative in Guam and he has invited them to present their terms and conditions last Tuesday but no one was available.

"We need to look at how we fund our projects and if we want to go down that road in getting a loan, then that decision needs to be made by the board or we put out an RFP," Sablan said.

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Pangelinan: Garapan Public Market is a work in progress

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former senator Maria C. Pangelinan, who is president of the Saipan Farmers Cooperative that runs the Garapan Public Market, assured members of the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday that the public market is progressing and they have plans in place for future ventures.

Pangelinan also clarified with Rotary members during their meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan that the Garapan Public

Market will not close down.

"We are surviving and if we have more produce to sell, we could have sustained ourselves until the peak season but so far we are extra cautious," she said.

She said that due to low funds and low production, the market is closed on Saturdays but she assured that they will eventually pick up during the peak season and plans are now underway for a full seven-day operation.

The peak season is usually from January to March.

"We are still trying to get the

local farmers under one roof. Luckily they have agreed to stop the Tuesday Market, but the Sabalu Market is still going on and we are working on putting them in one roof so we can work cooperatively," she said.

Pangelinan said there are fewer than 10 farmers that currently supply products to the public market but they are accepting more and that they don't have to be farmers to supply them.

"Because whatever they, have we will sell," she said.

Pangelinan said the farm-

ers are not under contract and noted that it was a problem because loyalty and support are needed beforehand when making a contract.

She noted that they do have consignments on some products such as local produce.

Some of the products the market sells are hydroponic produce, including lettuce in small volumes that come in every Tuesday from local farmer Sid Cabrera, hydroponic tomatoes and cucumbers from another local farmer, and some dragon fruits.

Pangelinan said the hydroponic produce is a little bit pricey.

The Garapan Public Market's future endeavors include selling local meat and fish. They are also working with farmers on standards to ensure safe and sanitary products.

Pangelinan said she has already met with the operator of the slaughterhouse and they are working on "participation" agreement.

"As for now we are focusing on bringing in produce and selling it," she said.

The Garapan Public Market was opened on Aug. 18. It was funded through a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as part of congressional appropriation that the CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources was awarded for.

According to Pangelinan, she is working on a management contract with DLNR acting secretary Manny Pangelinan. The management contract will officially lay down the plan on the future of the public market.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam and compiled at the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, heavy rain is expected as Tropical Storm Phanfone passes close to Saipan today.

Bands of heavy showers and thunderstorms will impact Saipan today as Phanfone approaches and then moves northwest of the island.

Flash flood watch is in effect for Saipan through late Wednesday night. Rainfall amounts of 4 to 8 inches are expected.

Flood watch in effect on Saipan

A flash flood watch means that conditions may develop that lead to flash flooding. Flash flooding is a very dangerous situation. You should monitor later forecasts and be prepared to take action should flash flood warnings be issued.

Members of the public living in a low-lying or flood-prone areas are advised to be prepared for the possibility of flooding on your property over the next few days.

The CNMI Homeland Secu-

rity and Emergency Management will be monitoring flood advisory as it becomes available. Continue to monitor the official bulletins that will be available through local media sources and NOAA weather radio broadcast on 162.5 mega-

hertz, or call the CNMI EOC Dispatch Center at 237-8000 or dial 211, and for the Northern Islands to contact the CNMI EOC Dispatch Center at high frequency single side band radio on frequency 5.205.0. (PR)

FY'15 limit set for CW-1 program

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of Homeland Security will allow up to 13,999 non-immigrants for fiscal year 2015 for the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker (CW-1) program. DHS published the notice in yesterday's Federal Register.

Under the CW-1 program, employers in the CNMI can apply for temporary permission to employ foreign nationals who are ineligible for any existing employment-based nonimmigrant category under the Immigration and Nationality Act. The CW program is in effect until Dec. 31, 2019. DHS set the CW-1 limit for fiscal year 2015 at 13,999—a reduction of one from the fiscal year 2014 limit of 14,000—to meet the CNMI's existing labor market needs and provide opportunity for potential growth, while meeting a regulatory requirement to reduce

the numerical limit each year.

Yesterday's announcement does not affect the status of current CW-1 workers unless their employer files for an extension of their current authorized period of stay. Approved petitions with an employment-start date in fiscal year 2015 (between Oct. 1, 2014, and Sept. 30, 2015) will count toward the 13,999 limit. The numerical limit applies only to CW-1 principals. It does not directly affect persons currently holding CW-2 status, which is for spouses and minor children of CW-1 nonimmigrants. However, CW-2 nonimmigrants may be indirectly affected because their status depends upon that of the principal CW-1.

For more information and announcements about immigration benefits in the CNMI, visit our CNMI Web page at www.uscis.gov/cnmi. (USCIS)

Tropical storm cancels indigenous conference

The Northern Marianas Decent Corp. cancelled half of the second-day session of the inaugural Marianas Indigenous Conference yesterday due to the Tropical Storm Condition 1 declared for Saipan.

The conference, which had its first day on Sept. 29, was only able to hold a session on the CNMI's economic sufficiency before it had to close down.

The other half of the second-day was to focus on indigenous language and cultural preservation and the formulation of an action plan

and proposed solutions.

NMDC president Herman R. Deleon Guerrero told people present at the time that due to the condition 1 status, the session will be put on hold until further notice.

According to NMDC moderator John Gonzales, there is no information yet on when the conference will reconvene.

"We still don't have an expected date on when it will continue. Due to the tropical storm, NMDC had to hold off the conference for the safety of the public," Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune*. (Jayson Camacho)

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Limtiaco lauds courage of victims to testify

The U.S. Attorney's Office acknowledged the "tremendous courage and strength" of the victims who testified in the jury trial of Raymond B. Roberto.

"The victims and government witnesses who testified are deserving of our utmost respect and recognition for their fortitude and bravery," said Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and NMI, in a statement released

late Monday night through their spokesperson, Salome Blas.

Limtiaco thanked the 12 jurors for their service and recognized the sacrifice and time commitment they each made away from their families during the course of the lengthy trial.

Limtiaco also thanked and acknowledged the

hard work and investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of

Investigation and the CNMI Department of Public Safety, and the hard work of the social service providers and non-profit organizations who provided assistance in the case.

"We continue to encourage and urge members



Limtiaco

of our community to report to authorities any and all forms of abuse, exploitation and violence; and to remind ourselves that it is all of our responsibility as a community to protect others from harm, especially our most vulnerable in society," she said.

Limtiaco assisted Assistant U.S. Attorney Rami S. Badawy in Roberto's trial that began on Aug. 8.

On Monday, the federal court jury rendered a unanimous verdict, acquitting the 41-year-old Roberto of all charges that he enticed three minor girls to engage in prostitution and

tampered a witness while he was in jail.

Roberto is a former acting director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

BEST

From Page 2

with them."

The governor also sees no problem with the Legislature coming out with a resolution supporting the extension of Mariana Resort's lease. Kan Pacific's original 40-year lease expires in 2018.

"That's not a problem. [But] what is it that Marianas Resort has to offer in terms of project development for the additional period? It's like I approve your lease then tell me what you're going to do about it later on. The right way to do this thing would be to get Mariana Resort to sub-

mit a plan/proposal as to what it wants to do and how much it wants to invest and so forth and on that basis the Legislature can come in and say 'we like this' and then maybe they can pass a resolution supporting it," added Inos.

He said public land is for the benefit of the general public and whatever decision comes out of the lease of public lands in Mari should be always be in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

"Of course we're concerned about the Japanese investment. That's about the last Japanese investment of that magnitude. We would like to see what we can do to preserve that but again it's the whole economy. It has to be mutual also."

INOS

From Page 1

Court," Gov. Eloy S. Inos told reporters yesterday.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said the Office of the Attorney General being in possession of the certified question on Saipan Local Law 18-19 is news to him.

He said he is nonetheless willing to sign off as the opposing party so the whole business of land compensation for long-suffering families and individuals who had to yield their land to the government years and even decades ago "can finally be cleared once and for all."

Deleon Guerrero pointed out, through, that the opposing party doesn't have to be from the Legislature, the local Saipan delegation, or the bill's author.

"It's been one our longest standing problems, this outstanding debt. Interest has been accruing. If we don't do anything to stop the bleeding, it will continue to be a bigger problem to our future generation, not to mention people who had to give up their land so the public can use it. A lot of them have passed away already...we should find every possible way to start compensating people. I know we don't have the money to pay everybody but we have to at least start the process and minimize the potential of a ballooning debt. It's a small fraction but at least it will show that the government is acting in good faith."

The U.S. National Weather Service has issued a small craft advisory effective from 6pm Tuesday to 6pm Thursday. The advisory means that seas 10 feet or greater and sustained winds of 22 to 33 knots are expected to produce conditions hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller boats, should avoid boating in these conditions.

If travel by boat is necessary, the National Weather Service said, people should exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors or inlets. (*With Dennis Chan*)

Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, while the other is the governor, the Executive Branch, the Department of Public Lands, or OAG.

The governor said his position mirrors the OAG's opinion with regards to Saipan Local Law 18-19, which appropriates \$800,000 in land compensation payments to land owners whose properties were taken by the government for public use.

"The whole idea here is to see if we can get a certified question before the Supreme Court to say that the source of funds in that legislation is prohibited or is limited to be used by the Department of Public Lands and, after deducting reasonable expenses for administration, those funds will be transferred to Marianas Public Land Trust."

Under the \$800,000 land compensation payment local law, at least 223 Saipan landowners will get anywhere from 89 cents to over \$190,000, based on DPL data.

Besides those owed land compensation payments on Saipan, other intended beneficiaries of Saipan Local Law 18-19 are the NMI Museum of History and Culture and the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., which were supposed to get \$100,000 each by mid-October.

DPL, in an earlier statement, said OAG advised the department that making payments from the Managaha landing and user fees pursuant to SLL 18-19 "would be an unconstitutional act."

The department said the question revolves around whether the Managaha landing and user fees are revenues generated from the management and disposition of public lands, which DPL is constitutionally required to remit to the Marianas Public Land Trust, or whether the Legislature may appropriate such funds.

Guam moves ahead with medical-marijuana ballot

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—An election official in Guam says a medical-marijuana vote will go forward as planned on the November ballot unless told otherwise.

Last week, an attorney filed a federal lawsuit to stop the vote. Lawyer Howard Trapp says the Legislature can't legally "pass the buck" to voters when it comes to passing legislation.

A U.S. District Court judge

has given the Guam Election Commission until Oct. 7 to respond to the lawsuit.

The commission's executive director, Maria Pangelinan, says the commission will continue with the vote until the court or its lawyers tell her to stop, the *Pacific Daily News* reported.

The commission earlier raised the same concerns as Trapp about the legislative submission process. It initially re-

fused to prepare the marijuana question for the ballot. But the island's Supreme Court on Aug. 5 decided the process was valid.

The Supreme Court said the law "grants the people of Guam the right of initiative and referendum." It said referendums may be initiated either by the people or the Legislature.

Sen. Tina Muña Barnes, D-Mangilao, who wrote the act

to let voters decide the fate of medical marijuana, said she's frustrated by the lawsuit because the Supreme Court already has acted. "To see a monkey wrench get thrown in there is very disappointing," she said.

Sen. Aline Yamashita, R-Taumung, who co-sponsored the legislation, said: "It's another bump and, like other bumps, we'll get through it."

nor's Office conference room.

"I just got a note that we're on tropical storm Condition I as of 10:40am today. So we will be dismissing non-essential—I don't want to say non-essential here because we're all essential—but non-critical folks will be released at 11:30pm and we're expecting the storm to hit tonight or early tomorrow morning. So, secure the offices, secure your home, and make sure everyone is safe. I guess I'll see you after the storm," said Inos.

Inos' acting public information office, Ivan A. Blanco, reiterated the governor's call for all island residents to brace themselves for the storm.

"The governor would like to advise all residents to prepare and stay safe. HSEM will continue to track and monitor the storm, and my office will provide periodic updates as they become available," he wrote in

an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The closing of the Executive Branch was mirrored by the sending home of employees at the Legislature, as House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said the governor's announcement of releasing non-critical employees is "pretty much government-wide."

At the Judiciary, only essential services like the Office of the Clerk of Court, the Office of Adult Probation, the Family Court Division, the Marshal Service Division, and Judicial Chambers were allowed to continue operations. An announcement from the Judiciary noted that minimal staff were designated to address docket requirements, emergency, and related prescheduled matters.

The Judiciary's Administrative Services Unit (cashier), Information Systems Unit, Building & Maintenance Unit, Office of the Commonwealth Record-

er, Law Revision Commission, and Judiciary Administrative Office were all shuttered. The Judiciary said "administrative leave will be granted to all non-reporting employees."

John Hirsh, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's executive director, said their Disaster Action Team is on standby.

"We have been attending local EMO briefings today as well as coordinating with our offices in Guam and Honolulu. We are working closely with the Public School System as they activate their storm shelters and will be providing support as needed. Tomorrow morning our team will do a preliminary disaster assessment and provide assistance to those who have storm related damage. We will be monitoring the storm along with Emergency Management throughout the night and help families if necessary," Hirsh wrote in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

miles north northeast of Guam.

Packing maximum sustained winds of 50 miles per hour and moving northwest at about 16mph, Phanfone is expected to become a typhoon and pass over the far Northern Mariana Islands early today, Wednesday.

A typhoon watch remains in effect for the far Northern Mariana Islands, including Pagan and Alamagan.

Typhoon watch means that typhoon conditions are possible in the watch area within 48 hours. A tropical storm warning means that tropical storm conditions are expected in the warning area within 24 hours.

The Public School System suspended classes at all levels and sent home its students at 12pm on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Some private schools did the same. Except for Rota, PSS suspended classes at all levels today, Wednesday, as Phanfone

was forecasted to become a typhoon and bring more rains.

In a statement, public information specialist Luis John DLG. Castro said shelters on Saipan were activated such as the Kagman Community Center, Tanapag Elementary, Garapan Elementary, Kagman High School, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Dandan Middle School, and Koblerville Elementary.

Castro said Marianas High School's emergency shelter was closed due to concerns with flooding.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan said shelter managers and PSS staff would be securing equipment, classrooms, and buildings to minimize any damage to school properties. Assessment of the schools would be done after the typhoon passes, according to her.

A flash flood watch is in ef-

fect through late Wednesday night. That means that conditions may develop that will lead to flash flooding, which is a very dangerous situation, according to the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam.

The U.S. National Weather Service has issued a small craft advisory effective from 6pm Tuesday to 6pm Thursday. The advisory means that seas 10 feet or greater and sustained winds of 22 to 33 knots are expected to produce conditions hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller boats, should avoid boating in these conditions.

If travel by boat is necessary, the National Weather Service said, people should exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors or inlets. (*With Dennis Chan*)

OAG files 35 charges against ex-bank employee

The Office of the Attorney General has filed 35 criminal charges against Joanna Mendiola Torres, a former Bank of Guam employee who allegedly stole \$18,145 from the bank account of her sister while the sister was undergoing medical treatment off island.

Chief Prosecutor Brian Flaherty filed an information yesterday charging the 42-year-old Torres with one count of theft and 34 counts of forgery.

According to court papers, Torres stole a total of \$18,145 from Jerilyn Torres Teregeyo between May 23, 2014, and

July 25, 2014.

Flaherty said the suspect, while employed with Bank of Guam, forged Teregeyo's signature 34 times in a Bank of Guam's savings withdrawal form to steal the money from the victim's saving account.

Torres appeared with her

counsel, assistant public defender Benjamin Petersburg, at the preliminary hearing yesterday afternoon. Petersburg told the court that Torres waives her right to a preliminary hearing.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

ordered Torres to appear at the arraignment on Monday, Oct. 6.

Police detective Andrew S. Taimanao stated in his report that Koban Unit police officers were dispatched to the Bank of Guam last Sept. 15 in response to a theft case.

Taimanao said the investigation showed that a bank customer called the bank and reported

that money was missing from his wife's bank account.

The bank's internal investigation discovered that their then-employee Torres stole the victim's money by forging her signature several times.

The bank terminated Torres on Sept. 12 due to the findings.

The bank returned to the victim's husband the entire missing amount. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Charges filed vs man who allegedly slashed car's tires, stabbed witness

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Probable cause has been found to warrant the filing of charges against Manuel Daniel Sablan Jr., a customer at a Garapan bar who allegedly slashed the tires of a car that was parked outside the establishment, then stabbed the man who witnessed the incident.

After listening to the testimony of a police detective and a police officer and the arguments of counsel at a preliminary hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable cause for the charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

After finding that aggravated assault and battery merged with assault with a dangerous weapon, the judge dismissed the former charge without prejudice.

The Office of the Attorney General can file a motion to add the charge of aggravated assault and battery based on further investigation.

At the hearing, Camacho asked assistant attorney general Heather Barcina which theory the government is pro-

ceeding under the assault with a dangerous weapon: purposely causing bodily injury, attempting to cause bodily injury, or purposely causing bodily injury. Barcina replied that they are proceeding under the theory of purposely causing bodily injury.

Camacho then ruled that since aggravated assault and battery is basically when a person purposely causes bodily injury, then aggravated assault and battery merges into the charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Barcina asked the court to allow the government to do more research on the matter and file a motion.

Attorney David Banes, counsel for Sablan, did not argue on Camacho's ruling on the merging issue.

Sablan's arraignment will be on Oct. 6.

At the hearing, Barcina called to the witness stand police officer Myron Laniyo and police detective Francisco O. Iginoef, who basically told the court about their investigation that led to Sablan's arrest.

Barcina asked, among other things, how the knife used in

stabbing Jesse Billy Mailuw was recovered at the scene.

Iginoef replied that they found the stainless knife through the trails of blood at the scene.

Mailuw was taken to the hospital. His wound on the right chest just above the right lung reportedly required eight stitches.

Iginoef also stated that Sablan

punctured two tires of a car that was parked at True North Bar & Grill. He said the total cost to replace the tires was \$80.

Banes asked Iginoef if fingerprints were taken from the alleged weapon. The detective said he's not aware if fingerprints were taken.

According to Iginoef's report, two police officers responded to

a stabbing incident at the True North Bar & Grill last Sept. 21 at 3:47am.

True North owner, former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogunmoro, met them and told them that a man was bleeding and needed medical attention.

The bloodied Mailuw approached one officer and stated he had been stabbed.

Mailuw was outside his work

place at Minimax Dive Shop, just north of True North, when he saw Sablan stabbing with a knife the tires of a Toyota T 100 parked on the northern parking lot of the bar.

Mailuw yelled at Sablan, who then allegedly approached and stabbed him.

The victim later identified Sablan, who was aboard a car that was still parked at the bar's parking lot.

Shop for Smiles with Mobil!



CHCC gets federal grant to reduce underage drinking, drug misuse

The Commonwealth Health-care Corp.'s Community Guidance Center recently received a notice of grant award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the "Partnership for Success," a grant focused on funding prevention initiatives to prevent or reduce the consequences of underage drinking, adult problem drinking and driving, and prescription drug misuse and abuse throughout the CNMI.

The five-year grant award—from fiscal year 2015 to 2020—is in the amount of \$1.3 million each year and will be managed by the CHCC's Community Guidance Center.

The Partnership for Success grant, awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to the Prevention Services Unit of the CHCC's Community Guidance Center, will support the implementation of the CNMI's five-year PFS Strategic Plan.

The project seeks to continue to support the dissemination and inter-agency sharing mod-

eled after the Strategic Prevention Framework Process, employing traditional methods of teamwork, consensus based systems and education from a variety of sources, including both academic and cultural, to implement effective strategies to reach prevention goals.

In order to successfully meet the prioritized needs for the CNMI, the Project Brabu "Partnership for Success" will work with collaborative assessments, build capacity, utilize strategic planning, implement and/or monitor evidence based and locally documented programs, and evaluate state and community outcomes informed by various data methods. This process is grounded in cultural competence and sustainability integral to prevention endeavors of the CNMI for locally appropriate data driven outcomes, sustained in state and community partnerships.

The Partnership for Success grant awards the CGC's Prevention Services Unit \$1,304,330 in a five-year period, starting October 2014 through September 2019. (*CHCC*)



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See poster in store or call Mobil's toll-free hotline at 1-866-486-7751 for more details.



NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL

Members of the CNMI Senate have their picture taken with Gilbert J. Birnbrich after confirming him to the post of attorney general on Thursday, minutes after holding a public hearing on his nomination. Birnbrich will be the last appointed attorney general of the CNMI as voters will now elect the attorney general starting on Nov. 4.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

**CUC wants fixed timeframe for CPUC to issue decisions**

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to long periods of time it takes for the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission to make a decision on rate case petitions, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board has recommended to the Legislature to amend the law governing the commission so it could come up with decisions faster.

The CUC board has recommended to Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication, to amend Public Law 15-23 and give the commission just 90 days to issue decisions on rate case petitions presented by CUC.

A similar recommendation was also presented to the House of Representatives.

CUC board members described the 90-day period as a "more reasonable time frame."

"The CPUC law should be

amended to require the CPUC to finish rate cases that are put before them within a reasonable time frame, otherwise they would automatically be considered approved," CUC board chair David Sablan Jr. said.

He cited past CUC rate petitions that he said took the CPUC an inordinately long period of time to decide on.

"We ponder through some of those in the past few months, with our experience with the hold on the rate cases that are sitting with the board," he said.

According to Sablan, among the issues that took awhile to get decided on were an oil contract, the incentive rate contract for large commercial customers that got approved only last Friday, and CUC legal counsel James Sirok's presentation on costs paid by CUC to CPUC.

Sablan said that Sirok's report was a breakdown of how much CUC paid CPUC and described it as "very eye-

opening" to see how much the commission charges CUC for regulatory costs, even for small changes in CUC's operational requirements.

"That was unconscionable. There was no need for that, but in my opinion there should be a dollar limit on cases that we put before them," he said.

Rep. Larry Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House PUTC committee, told the CUC board last Tuesday that he has yet to hear about the recommendation to amend P.L. 15-23.

"I was not informed of the recommendation because I was not here last board meeting. But I am willing to help you guys in terms of CPUC coming within a time period of approving the rates and its decisions," he said.

Deleon Guerrero told CUC board that he can draft an amendment to the law requiring CPUC to hasten its decisions within a fixed timeframe.

Sablan said it is important for CPUC to hasten its decisions because if they continue to wait and delay "things

don't get done and the rate goes up."

SIDE BAR**'CUC won't resort to collecting govt arrears ASAP'**

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s current woes that include the threat of receivership, CUC board chair David Sablan Jr. said the public utilities will not resort to demanding that the government pay its past arrears immediately to fund court-mandated projects.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* during a public hearing on Sept. 23 that he will soon meet with the Public School System, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the central government to discuss ways to settle their arrears more efficiently.

"They have been keeping up so far with their current bills, which is good, but the receiv-

able accounts remain uncollected. We need to discuss on how we will find a way to collect these past dues," Sablan said.

According to him, CHCC, PSS, and the central government have been keeping up with their current bills all the way to August.

These three owe CUC a total of \$23 million: The central government owes about \$4 million, PSS about \$7 million, while CHCC covers the remaining balance, which is \$12 million.

"But I am appealing to the Governor's Office and Legislature to please pay their past dues. Also, PSS and CHCC [need] to pay. Because they cannot do it with the revenues they receive currently, I am appealing to the governor to

please fund PSS and CHCC so they could pay their past dues," Sablan said.

The best option for CUC to be able to implement all projects required under stipulated orders is the collection of past arrears. Two of the projects under the stipulated orders are funded by federal grants, while 14 projects remain unfunded and cost about \$20 million. Collecting the \$23 million will address these unfunded projects.

CHCC's past arrears was among the issues that were hotly debated by CUC board members at their last meeting. CUC is currently under a temporary restraining order that stops it from disconnecting the public hospital as long as it remains current in its payments.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from the CNMI Water Task Force to construct a waterline in the Lower Base area on the island of Saipan in the CNMI. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties. Notice is hereby given that the project is proposed to be located in, or may affect, a floodplain and/or wetland as defined by Executive Order (EO) 11988 and/or EO 11990.

The project is a replacement of the existing waterline including replacement of valves, hydrants and other appurtenances. The project will be located along the public roadways in the Lower Base area between Chalan Pale Arnold Road and the ocean and from Industrial Drive at the south of the project area to Sisonyan Drive at the north. Project information is available for review at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill Saipan or phone 670-664-2274.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts to historic properties or environmental resources including wetlands or floodplains associated with this proposed project please provide it in writing to:

Regional Environmental Officer
Economic Development Administration
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174

Comments received in the EDA Regional Office by 5:00 pm Eastern Time on October 31, 2014 will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

**PUBLIC NOTICE**
Amendment # 01

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board scheduled on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. has been postponed to **Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**III. NEW BUSINESS****IV. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Mortgage Credit Division
 - i. HOME Policies and Procedures

V. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION****VII. OTHER MATTERS****VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D' TORRES BUILDING, GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 235-8060 Fax: 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF HAWAII, Plaintiff, v. CLARINDA BESONG aka Defendant.	[CIVIL ACTION NO. 14-0067] [NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE] SALE
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to the Default Judgment and Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 12, 2014, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right and interests of Defendant in and to the following real property, located in Koblerville, Saipan, CNMI:

Leasehold estate created by a certain lease made by Ramon S. Salas and Elsa V. Salas, as lessor, to Clarinda Besong as lessee, dated July 27, 2001 and recorded on March 28, 2002 as Document No. 02-674 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan, the following described premises, to wit:

Lot 005 I 299 as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 05, the original of which was recorded 31 JULY 84 as Document No. 84-1364 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan.

1. **Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendants), and will be held on **Thursday, October 9, 2014**, at the hour of 10:30 a.m. at the entrance to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, D'Torres Bldg, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI. Registration for the auction sale will begin at 10:15 a.m.

2. **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 16th day of September, 2014.

/s/ MICHELINE W. BREL, Auctioneer
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan
Tel: (670) 235-8060
E-mail: michbrel@hotmail.com

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D' TORRES BUILDING, GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 235-8060 Fax: 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, v. ALICE A. HOCOG, Defendant.	[CIVIL ACTION NO. 98-0194 (R)] CIVIL ACTION NO. 98-0132 (R) [AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE] SALE
--	---

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to the Default Judgment issued by the Court in this matter on August 24, 1998 as well as the Motion to Appoint Auctioneer and Order entered by this Court on October 4, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right and interests of Defendant in and to the following real property, located in Sinapalo, Rota, CNMI:

Lot 345 R 157, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 04, the original of which was recorded 19 DEC 1983 under File No. 83-383 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

1. **Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendants), and will be held on **Thursday, October 9, 2014**, at the hour of 11:00 a.m. at the entrance to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, D'Torres Bldg, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI. Registration for the auction sale will begin at 10:45 a.m.

2. **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 17th day of September, 2014.

/s/ S. JOSHUA BERGER, Auctioneer
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-8060

Law firm sues Quichocho for unpaid \$173K legal fees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A law firm is suing disbarred lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho for allegedly failing to pay \$173,187.70 in attorney's fees and costs incurred in representing Quichocho and his law office in the civil lawsuit filed by businesswoman Jung Ja Kim.

O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes law firm is suing Quichocho and the Law Office of Quichocho LLC, in Superior Court for breach of contract.

Attorney Michael Dotts, as counsel for plaintiff, asked the court to hold Quichocho and his law office liable to pay the \$173,186.70 in damages, attorney's fees and costs incurred in this lawsuit.

According to Dotts, their law firm and Quichocho and his law office entered into an agreement in November 2009.

Under the agreement, Dotts said, Quichocho and his law of-

fice hired the plaintiff to provide legal services and represent the defendants as their counsel in Kim's lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Dotts said they worked diligently on behalf of Quichocho and his law firm, expending considerable time, work, and energy in representing them, in addition to expending out-of-pocket costs.

Dotts said they provided defendants statements of account indicating attorney's fees and costs incurred during each calendar month. They also provided statements about the total amount of fees and costs due from Quichocho as of the end of the monthly period. Dotts said Quichocho never questioned or challenged these monthly statements of account.

Yet despite repeated demands, Quichocho and his law firm have neglected and failed to pay the amounts due, Dotts said.

In March this year, a federal jury unanimously found Quichocho, his wife, and his law firm liable to pay \$2.4 million in damages to Kim, who filed a racketeering lawsuit against them.

In May, Superior Court's Associate Judge Joseph N Camacho suspended Quichocho's license to practice law for three years for professional misconduct.

In July, Camacho ordered Quichocho's disbarment from the practice of law in CNMI courts for professional misconduct in representing his then-client, Kim. That same month, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered a public reprimand against Quichocho for professional misconduct in connection with another Bar complaint filed by a couple.

In August, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona suspended

Quichocho from the practice of law in federal court for a period of three years following Camacho's suspension of the lawyer.

Quichocho was last reported to be in Tacoma, Washington.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CASINO COMMISSION APPOINTEES

From left, Casino Commission appointees Alvaro A. Santos, Joseph C. Reyes, and Juan M. Sablan look on during a Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation committee's public hearing on their nominations on Thursday afternoon. Over a month since the Lottery Commission granted Best Sunshine International Ltd. a license to exclusively develop an integrated casino resort on Saipan, a regulatory Casino Commission has yet to be established.

'PSS school buildings are not to electrical code'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Electrical systems for many buildings in the Public School System are "not to code," according to CIP coordinator for PSS Rachel Fusco.

"If you look at the age of some of these schools and then you look at what's there, maybe it was okay 30, 40 years ago but it's not modernized, it hasn't been brought up to code or acceptable standard," she said.

As reported earlier, the Office of Insular Affairs, in its 2013 assessment of buildings and classrooms, provided a table for "health and safety concerns" for priority attention that flagged PSS 57 times for "hazardous conditions" under "electrical" deferred maintenance among 18 schools surveyed.

Fusco said that most of this "urgent health and safety deferred maintenance"—which amounts to \$1.3 million—found by OIA in its report, will be electrical work, noting that electrical upgrades as schools age and more computers are used in classrooms.

She said that based on the cost of projects in the CNMI, as well as the cost of past PSS projects in the last 10 years, OIA came up with broad estimates of how much it would take to address all of PSS' renovations.

OIA has advised insular governors to set aside \$1 million every year for five years from its annual federal Capital Improvement Project funds to address issues raised in the report.

To address these issues, the Board of Education this year approved the OIA ABC initiative, with the first \$1 million that PSS will be allocated to cover the "urgent health and safety deferred maintenance" that was identified, according to Fusco as

well Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Salban.

OIA ranked deferred maintenance needs from 1 to 5, with five being acceptable and 1 being of urgent priority.

On the five-year window recommended by OIA for these projects, Fusco said PSS is addressing its deferred maintenance in the order of "critical needs," noting that PSS has decided to address the "1s" with the first million, and all the "2s," which equal to about \$4 million in costs, to be taken cared of from years 2 to 5.

She said a plan and time-

frame is still in the works for the first year phase, noting that it may vary for the different PSS schools.

"MHS might need a bigger overhaul as opposed to Dandan [Middle School] which is newer," she said.

She also emphasized that OIA's assessment was just a "snapshot in time," and that as the report read, all the deferred maintenance common to the insular areas and the CNMI can be attributed "to [lack of] funding, harsh weather, and our locations."

"If we do all the '2s' in years

2 to 5, we still have to make sure that everything is kind of addressed, so at the same time we don't keep recurring these large amounts of deferred maintenance," she said.

Other than electrical needs, from an order of most cited "hazardous conditions," other areas of priority found by OIA are structure, exterior, plumbing, roofing, interior, and mechanical.

The second most flagged priority need, behind "electrical," was "structure," which was flagged 14 times.

Both "structure" and "elec-

trical" lead associated deferred maintenance costs with \$.36 million of \$1.3 million in urgent health and safety deferred maintenance attributed to "electrical," while \$.38 million in deferred maintenance costs is cited for "structure."

Kagman Elementary School was flagged 11 times for electrical "hazardous" conditions, while the then-San Vicente Elementary School was flagged 10 times, according to OIA.

While Fusco and Commissioner Sablan earlier noted age as the cause for the constant need for repairs, KagES, with the highest number of hazardous conditions identified, based

on the years since it opened, is much younger than SVES which is more than 40 years old, according to OIA's findings on PSS school ages in their final assessment summary report.

KagES is around 15 years old based on the year the school opened, according to OIA graph.

PSS schools are 36 years old on average, according to OIA.

Specifics or details explaining these "hazardous" conditions were not provided in OIA documents available to *Saipan Tribune*, and the CIP office did not elaborate on the effects or dangers of these conditions as they affect each school.

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Expanded Pacific ocean preserve now the world's largest

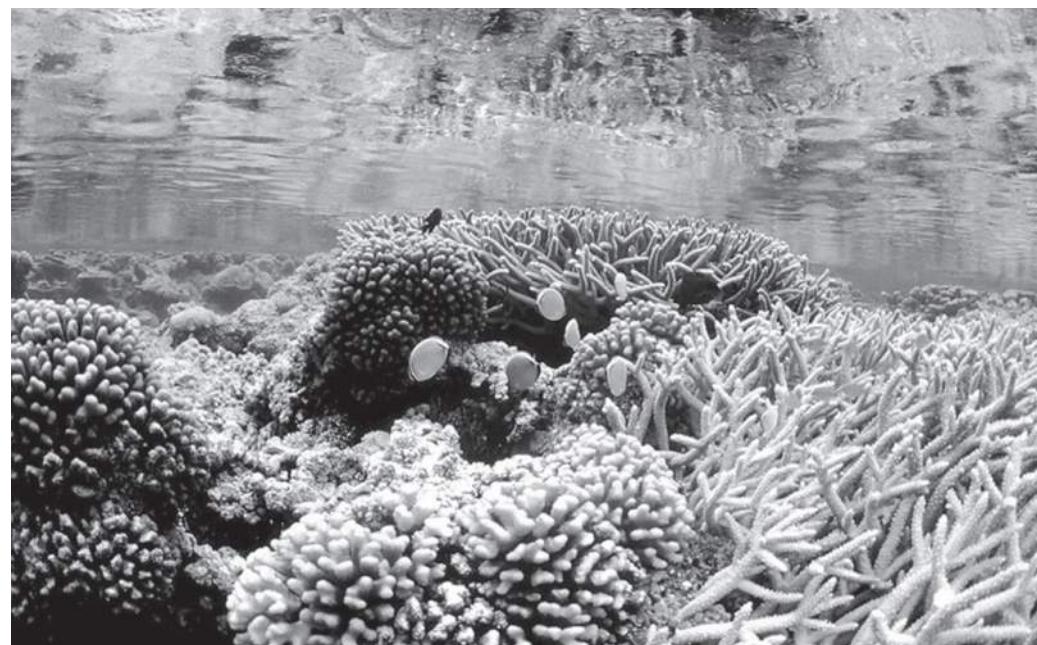
By JOSH LEDERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Far off America's shores, an ocean preserve flush with rare seabirds, turtles and marine mammals will grow to roughly three times the size of California under a memorandum that President Barack Obama signed Thursday.

The expanded Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument will cover 490,000 square miles (1.2 million sq. kilometers), making it the largest marine preserve in the world, the White House said. The move puts the remote waters surrounding a collection of islands off-limits to drilling and most fishing in a bid to protect fragile underwater life.

"This really is a matter of stewardship. It's also a matter of generational responsibility," Secretary of State John Kerry said Thursday. "We have a responsibility to make sure our kids and their families and the future has the same ocean to serve it in the same way as we have—not to be abused, but to preserve and utilize."

Millions of marine animals live in the bio-rich expanse included by the new monu-



In this photo released by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pink corals are seen on the Palmyra Atoll in the Pacific in this photo, date unknown.

ment, which will also add new protections for more than 130 "seamounts"—underwater mountains where rare or undiscovered species are frequently found. Commercial fishing, deep-sea mining and other extraction of underwater resources will be banned, but recreational fishing will still be allowed, in an attempt to preserve the public's access to federal areas.

Hospital looking into possible CFO candidates

With the resignation of the hospital's chief financial officer earlier this month, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is now looking at possible candidates for financial chief.

According to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, they are looking at possible candidates and those applying need to have an extensive and actual CFO experience.

Jack Taitague turned in his resignation last Aug. 28, stepping down not long after his 90-day probation.

Muña said the hospital at that

The move to broaden the George W. Bush-era preserve comes as Obama seeks to show concrete presidential action to protect the environment, despite firm opposition in Congress to new environmental legisla-

tion. At the United Nations this week, Obama announced new U.S. commitments to help other nations deal with the effects of climate change, as world leaders seek to galvanize support for a major global climate treaty to

be finalized next year in Paris.

Yet the expansion falls far short of what Obama could have done in the Pacific had he used the full extent of his powers.

Maritime law gives the U.S. control up to 200 nautical miles from the coast. Under Bush, the U.S. set aside waters extending about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from the shore of the remote, U.S.-administered islands in the south-central Pacific, thousands of miles from the American mainland.

The islands sit between Hawaii and American Samoa and are divided into five regions. Obama is extending the preserve to the full 200 miles (320 kilometers)—but only for three of the five regions.

Had Obama expanded the preserve in all five regions, he could have protected more than 780,000 square miles (2 million sq. kilometers), according to a geographic analysis by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Still, environmental groups cheered the announcement and said they hoped it would spur oth-

er nations to take similar steps to preserve the world's oceans.

"The president acted expeditiously, while the area is still largely pristine and undisturbed," said Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Obama signed the memorandum on Thursday, the White House said, shortly before the president returns to Washington after three days of meetings with world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly. Obama first signaled his intent to expand the monument in June and asked for input on the final boundaries from fishermen, lawmakers and scientists. Officials said they received more than 170,000 electronic comments on the proposal.

While a major symbolic victory for environmentalists, who long urged Obama to take this step, the designation will have limited practical implications. That's because little fishing or drilling are taking place in the region even without the new protections.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its next general membership meeting today, Oct. 1, at 11:30am, at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort. Meeting will begin at noon. Guest speakers will be Andrew Bonney, SRVP Planning for Cape Air, and Jim Wolf, Sustainability Director. Bonney is flying out from Boston to address the membership. Luncheon cost for SCC members is \$20; non-members pay \$30. (SCC)

PSS execs on John Gonzales LIVE today

The *John Gonzales LIVE* show will air live today, Oct. 1, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on TV Channel 14, with the topic, "House Legislative Initiative 18-12 to increase PSS guaranteed funding level to 25 percent." Guests include Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., PSS Associate Commissioner for Instructions Jackie A. Quitugua, and Board of Education members.

To participate in the discussion, contact via email: johngonzaleslive@gmail.com; call: 287-9413; or text: 285-META (6382). The show also rebroadcasts on www.betelnutradio.com.

The show will be replayed on Monday, Oct. 6, and Tuesday, Oct. 7, on Channel 14, also from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. (PR)

MHS sets Q1 Mid-Progress Report Open House

Marianas High School is encouraging all parents and guardians to come to its 1st Quarter Mid-Progress Report Open House on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014, from 4pm to 6pm at the MHS Gymnasium. This

is a great opportunity to meet our teachers and talk about your child's progress in the class. Should you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206/5. You can also check our website at www.marianhighschool.com. (PR)

Family grief support meeting on Oct. 2

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter on Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Oct. 2, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. For more information, call Jill Derickson at 989-9821, or e-mail jilld@pticom.com. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. (PR)

Marines training at Warning Area 517

The U.S. Marines will conduct training at Warning Area 517 Sept. 29 to Oct. 2 from 9am to noon. The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the area during the times and dates indicated. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprised of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. (PR)

kind of business they can establish. CDA owns the hotel, which had filed for bankruptcy in September 2004 and was later placed under receivership. It went through a bidding process but no one showed interest. "We have to maintain it and we want to provide improvement," Sablan said. CDA recently filed a case against the former owners of the hotel for allegedly failing to pay a 1989 loan that is now reaching \$1.2 million, including interest and other charges. Sablan said the Department of Commerce is taking the lead in converting the former hotel into a center to generate additional income to the government.

CPA projects 20 pct. revenue drop

Projected revenues for the Commonwealth Ports Authority is expected to drop by 20 percent in Fiscal Year 2010, which began yesterday. CPA comptroller Frances Mafnas said during Wednesday's meeting that the agency expects to generate just \$10 million in revenues in the next 12-month period, compared to FY 2009, which recorded \$11 million revenues. As an autonomous agency, CPA functions and operates as a self-sustaining agency, paying for its personnel and operational costs out of its own pocket. Mafnas said the low projection was a result of the pulling out of Continental Airlines' operation on island and the reduction of some flights from the existing signatory airlines. To date, Asiana and Northwest are the only signatory airlines that pay fees to the ports authority. During the deliberation, board members asked the management to be cautious when adding items to the new budget. The board deferred voting on the adoption of the agency's FY 2010 budget for two weeks after it uncovered some "technical problems" in the proposed budget plan.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 1, 1999

Bracing for the millennium

GUAM—Guam has dubbed itself a Pleasure Island to promote various tourist attractions, particularly in Tumon Bay which has undergone a multimillion-dollar facelift in what officials hope would spur its tourism industry. With the newest fleet of Boeing 737 jets by Continental Micronesia coupled with the gradual recovery by some Asian economies, particularly Japan, Guam and the rest of the islands in the region may register positive signs in their visitor arrivals for the first time since 1997. In a tour hosted by the Guam-based carrier, dozens of journalists and travel agents from Japan, the Philippines, Hawaii, CNMI and other island nations in the region saw the results of the modernization program the Agana government has carried out over the past two years. While the plan is not yet complete, many of the changes stand as a symbol of Guam's commitment to bring its tourism industry—its main economic force like the rest of the islands in Micronesia—into the next millennium. Tumon alone has seen the rise of new hotels and other attractions that now dot the tourist district. Outrigger Guam Resort, which opened in June, is the latest addition to row of hotels overlooking the ocean.

The boat people trial: Each witness earns \$128 per day

The alien smuggling trial has revealed that each of the prosecution's six material witnesses is making \$128 a day—or about 400 percent higher than the CNMI's minimum wage workers' daily earnings. Based on the per diem rate, the federal government spends a total of \$23,000 per month on the allowances of the six witnesses, who have been asked to testify against six defendants charged with alien smuggling. The witnesses, who were among the 51 undocumented passengers aboard a Chinese fishing vessel interdicted by the US Coast Guard last April, were not charged with any crime. Federal authorities earlier sent them to California, and brought them back to Saipan last Aug. 23 to prepare for the trial. At Wednesday's cross examination by defense attorneys, Mel Grey, special agent of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, said the federal government pays the six material witnesses tax-free per diem allowances on top of hotel accommodation, and other privileges.

October 1, 2009

Govt seeks to revive defunct Gardenia as a biz incubator

The government is currently preparing an application for an Economic Development Assistance grant to put to good use the defunct Pacific Gardenia Hotel, which would be converted into a business incubation center. Commonwealth Development Authority executive director Manny Sablan explained that the incubation center would give people who want to start businesses a venue to visualize what

Nathrani leads NMC's new batch of student officers

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Results are in for the new student leaders at the Northern Marianas College, with Riya Nathrani voted as president of the Associated Students of NMC with 168 votes.

Salvi Villanueva was voted as vice president with 69 votes. His brother, Andrew, became secretary with 94 votes, and Roman Tudela was voted as treasurer for ASNMC with 105 votes.

For ASNMC's three sena-

tor positions, Keisuke Yoshida was voted in with 133 votes, Adrian Pangelinan with 109 votes, and Guadalupe Camacho with 91 votes.

"Please know that it will be an honor for me to work with you. ... I know you will all do a terrific job in representing the best interests of our students," NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart said in a statement addressing the new officers.

According to Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services, an induction ceremony will be

held pending a date and time worked out between the new officers and the college's Office of Student Activities.

The election for the new officers of the Associated Students of NMC was held on Sept. 23

and 24 between 9am to 6pm at the college's student center.

Nathrani was the only nomination for president, with some of the eight candidates running for more than one position.

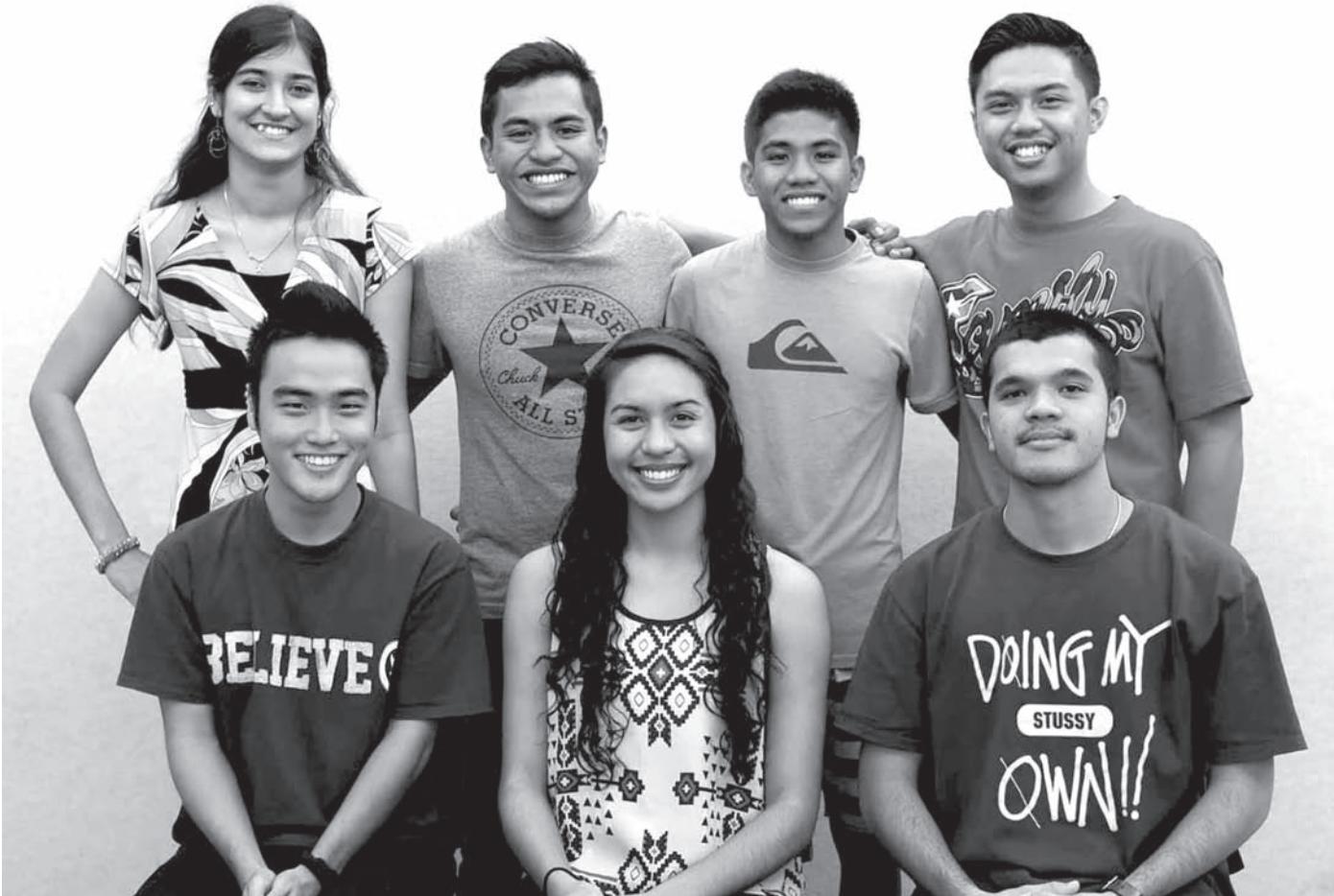
She told *Saipan Tribune* ear-

lier that the type of activities

she plans to hold as president include student discussion forums for issues the college may be facing, as well as sport activities and entertaining events that will help students

relax and cope.

"Students need to be more involved with activities on campus because these activities play an integral role in gaining and improving life-long skills," she said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officers for the Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College were elected recently. In the back row from left is president Riya Nathrani, vice president Salvi Villanueva, secretary Andrew Villanueva, treasurer Roman Tudela; in the front row from left are senators Keisuke Yoshida, Guadalupe Camacho, and Adrian Pangelinan.

Japan's 'SNS Queen' tours Saipan

Japan's "SNS Queen" Ayumi Inui was in the Northern Marianas Islands this month to prepare an exclusive video about the destination.

Inui has over 20,000 followers on YouTube, 130,000 on Twitter, 9,000 on Facebook, 8,000 on Google+, and 715,000 on Snappee, (an iPhone app for sharing photos widely used in Japan). A 3- to 5-minute video will be uploaded to her SNS pages as her exclusive "Saipan Report."

"Ayumi Inui has influence with the next generation in Japan who follow her on social

DOL chief to attend Calif. meeting on WIOA

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Labor Secretary Edith E. Deleon Guerrero will be meeting this week with federal grantors to discuss the progress in the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

According to Deleon Guerrero, who took part in Monday's inaugural Marianas Indigenous Conference, she will be leaving this week to attend a town hall meeting with CNMI-DOL's federal grantors in San Francisco, California.

"This whole week I will be leaving to San Francisco to attend a town hall meeting. There is a lot of conversations and a lot of changes going through," she said.

The meeting, according to

media. In return for the Marianas Visitors Authority helping her attain a photography permit to shoot on Saipan, we look forward to the ad exposure we will receive through her video report," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

While on Saipan on Sept. 1-4, 2014, Inui visited Managaha, where diving and massage were filmed. She also took a sightseeing tour and went to the Garapan Street Market. Inui lodged at Mariana Resort & Spa, where she filmed handmade soap production with Mariana Ocean. (MVA)

Deleon Guerrero, will focus on a unified state plan for WIOA, which will require the local labor office to come up with plans, policies, and benchmarks.

President Barack Obama signed the WIOA into law on July 22, 2014. It aims to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

WIOA requires the state to develop and submit a four-year strategy in the form of a "unified state plan" for core programs that will allow U.S. Department of Labor's regional offices to report on the work performances, plans, and procedures of every region.

CNMI Labor is under Region VI of San Francisco as its federal grantee.

"The feds check at every level because everyone has a specific role to play in every transformation," Deleon Guerrero said. "There is so much going on right now and writing the new effective date from 2015."

Deleon Guerrero said that one of the biggest changes that might be discussed at the town hall meeting is the unified state plan, performance benchmark, and getting all the key players in the system to transform themselves.

"Each particular granting agency in the federal level are working on guidance and instructions to each individual state and program and there is still so much work to be done by 2015," she said.

Marianas native returns as a Marine

By LANCE CPL. TYLER NGIRASWEI
III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

ECHO FIELD, Tinian—Lance Cpl. Edward Manibusan Jr., from Koblerville, Saipan, grew up on a small island with small towns, few city lights and a lot of ocean. He enjoyed growing up on the peaceful paradise, but he always wanted more.

"Ever since middle school it has been a dream to go out and see the world," said Manibusan, a field wireman with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "I always wanted to see the world and where I am from it is not really common for folks to travel."

Manibusan joined the Marine Corps after graduating high school, which opened a door for him to travel to the United States, Japan and during Exercise Forager Fury III, a chance to go to Tinian, an island near his home.

"The options back home were to go to school or get a job on the island, but I was tired of staying at home. I wanted something different," said Manibusan. "Joining the Marine Corps opened that door for me."

Though the Marine Corps provided the opportunity for Manibusan to see the world, it did not initially make his



U.S. MARINE CORPS/LANCE CPL. TYLER NGIRASWEI

Lance Cpl. Edward Manibusan, Jr., from Koblerville, Saipan, stands outside of his tent Sept. 26 during Exercise Forager Fury III.

parents happy.

"We fought the idea of him joining the Marine Corps at first," said Edward B. Manibusan, Manibusan Jr.'s father. "We sat down and talked to him about college, then he convinced us that joining the military is what he really wanted.

"Being in the Marine Corps is not really different from how I grew up," said Manibusan. "In our culture we have all these traditions and we learn to respect our elders, sort

of like how we are supposed to listen to our superiors and do what we are told."

Though it was similar to his childhood, the Marine Corps changed him, according to Manibusan's father, from Koblerville, Saipan.

"He was always a good kid, but since joining the Marine Corps he acts more mature and responsible now," said Manibusan's father.

His friends notice his maturity as well and think it helps him as a Marine as well, according to Cpl. Aaron A. Uribe, a radio operator with MWSS-171.

"He's hardworking, very respectful and if anything needs to be done, he is the main person I go to," said Uribe, from Sacramento, California. "He is also a good friend, someone you could always talk to and he is a real family person."

With his family proud of his decision and the family he has made in the Marine Corps, if he was offered the chance to go back and choose whether or not he would join, he would always make the same choice, according to Manibusan.

"Looking through the pictures I have taken while I have been in the Marine Corps, I have been to so many different places and different times with different people," said Manibusan. "I get to do a lot of things, I get to meet a lot of people and I have been able to go where I never thought I would ever go."

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 10th birthday to Lei'ane Esther! We're lucky you're our daughter and we hope you'll always know that we love you and we're proud of you as your birthdays come and go. With love, Mom and Dad.

Opinion

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 Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
 jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
 mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Why print still matters

Print media, those of us in the newspaper industry have been told for years, is a dying trade. With the proliferation of cable news, Internet outlets and social media, consumers can get their news in real time. The result is the irrelevancy of outlets that operate at the comparatively glacial pace of print.

That's the conventional wisdom, anyway.

We may be entering a bold new era in media, but, based on what Americans are telling pollsters, it's hardly a golden age. Survey results released this month by Gallup showed that only 40 percent of Americans trust the media to report the news "fully, accurately and fairly." That number is tied for an all-time low.

We can't say that we disagree with the public's skepticism. All too often, the mainstream media seems interested only in the facts that fit a preexisting narrative. To be sure, there's a place for advocacy in journalism—but it's on opinion pages, like these, not in straight news reporting.

The problems go beyond ideological bias, however. One of the casualties of our right-this-minute news culture is a tendency to play fast and loose with the facts. Because the dominant incentive in modern media is to have a story first, the result is often that reporters get the story wrong. Look at any complicated story from recent years—Trayvon Martin, the Boston Marathon bombing, the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines flight 370, the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo.—and you'll find almost comically inept reporting, all done with the goal of beating other outlets to a scoop.

In this environment, we believe that print media can actually serve a uniquely corrective role. Unlike the talking heads on cable news, we don't have to fill every moment of the day with content, regardless of whether there's anything meaningful to say. And, unlike Internet pundits and Twitter grandes, we don't face the pressure to analyze events in real time, even when the relevant facts remain murky.

Most Americans understand that they make better decisions when they engage in thoughtful deliberation rather than acting on their first impulse. They ought to recognize that a similar dynamic is at work in the media. Print outlets are uniquely able to take a longer view than other media. They can vet the facts more thoroughly, attempt to fit them into a broader context, and—most importantly—take the time to actually engage in a little reflection.

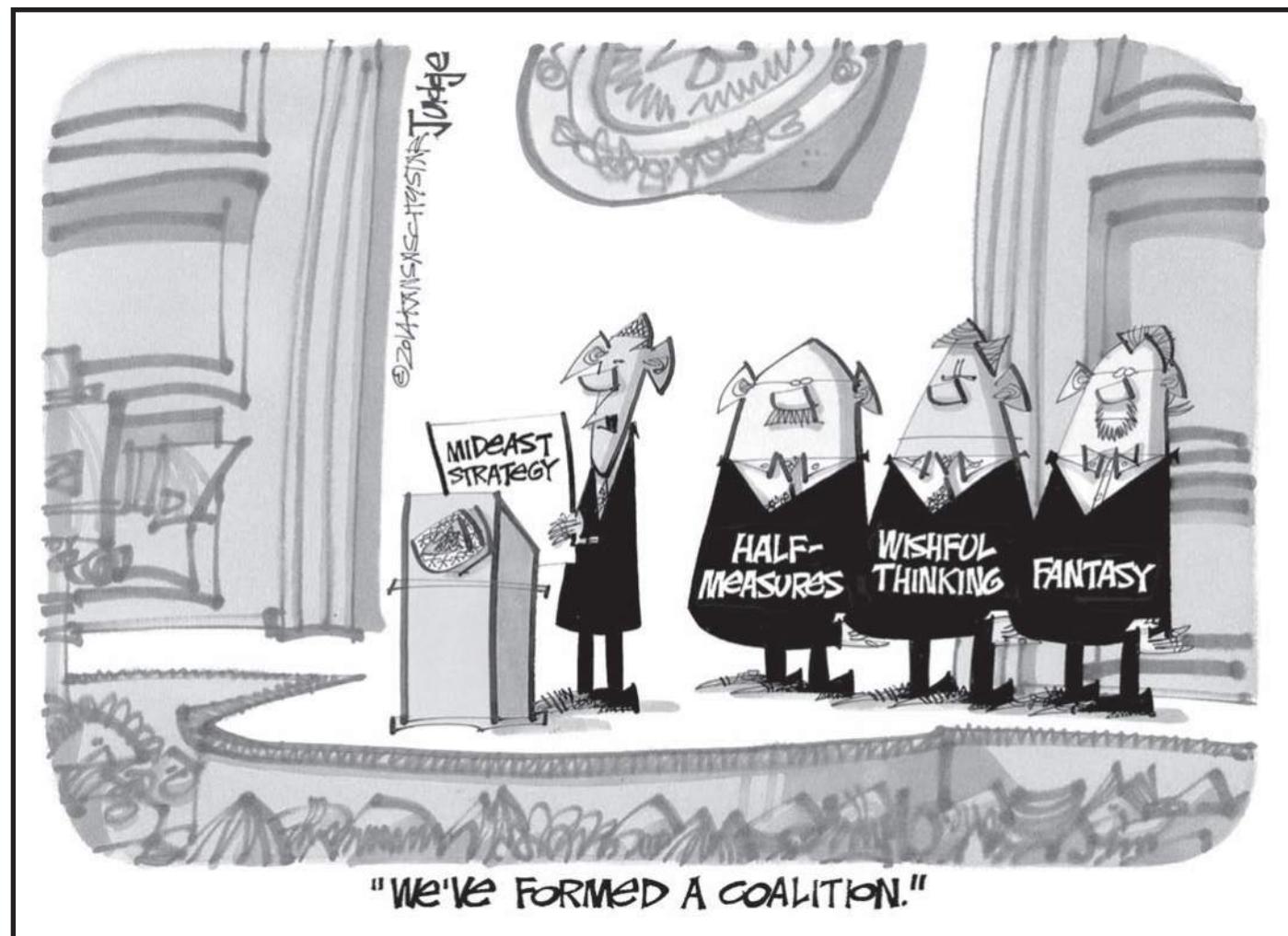
There's no doubt that the speed at which we can now access information represents an improvement for society. We must be vigilant, however, to ensure that depth and perspective aren't sacrificed as a result. If print journalism embraces that mandate, it's likely to survive far into the future.

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India proves that space exploration can be a low-budget affair

The sum of \$74 million doesn't go as far as it used to: NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell earned that amount in just the past two years. A Los Angeles home once owned by Walt Disney

See **EDITORIAL** on Page 11



Job creation key to economic comeback

On the whole, I'm upbeat about our economy's current prospects. Growth has kicked into higher gear since the start of 2014, as job creation has picked up, particularly for middle- and higher-paying positions.

But the better news still leaves plenty to worry about. Most immediate is the prospect of rising interest rates. Given the Federal Reserve's unprecedented action to combat the weak economy, it is not clear whether the central bank can pull back in a way that neither ignites inflation nor undermines growth.

The mayhem in the Middle East and Vladimir Putin's aggressive moves toward Ukraine pose serious threats. Terrorism here at home would be hard to bear, and Russia remains the globe's largest oil producer. Despite America's growing energy independence, higher oil prices would hurt.

Disparities in U.S. income and wealth are also a problem. The widening gulf between the rich and the rest may not matter a lot in any given year, but over the long term it will be corrosive to growth. It is hard to see how our economy can flourish if a third of the population is struggling financially.

But what worries me most is the sharp slowdown in new business formation since the Great Recession. The number of new U.S. enterprises started each year has been trending lower since the late 1990s, following a peak during the tech boom, but it took a dive during the recession. Business starts stabilized in the subsequent recovery, but show few signs of rebounding.

Recent research shows the preponderance of new jobs come from new firms. They are the principal source of innovation and long-term growth as they turn new ideas into products and services. The longer business starts remain depressed, the dimmer our longer-term prospects look.

Weak business starts are a problem across nearly all industries. The energy sector is an exception, reflecting the fracking boom in many parts of the country. Business formations have also held up in health care due to the rapid changes forced on the industry by Obamacare. But significantly fewer new firms are being formed in manufacturing, retail, and financial services.

The tough economy is clearly one reason why. Starting a business is nerve-wracking even in the best of times. During the first year my own firm was in business, I was so nervous about whether things would work out that I often literally had a hard time breathing. The nightmare of the recession surely dampened the entrepreneurial spirits so vital to risk-taking.

Another factor likely weighing on new business formations is the age composition of the population. Most new businesses are formed by people in their 30s, as I was when my best friend, my brother, and I started our company. Unfortunately, the share of thirty-somethings in the U.S. population is at a cyclical low. This is the baby-bust generation, the small cohort between the baby-boomers and their kids, now the twenty-something millennials.

By MARK ZANDI

The Philadelphia Inquirer



Mark Zandi is chief economist of Moody's Analytics. He wrote this the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Moreover, the bad economy has slowed the start of careers for many millennials. It may thus take them longer to acquire the skills and experience necessary to start businesses. The heavy debts many took on to finance their educations won't help.

Starting businesses also takes capital, which has been in short supply. Until recently, getting a bank loan for a start-up was extraordinarily difficult. It is still tough to find venture capital funding unless you live in Silicon Valley and write computer code, or are working on the next big app for smartphones.

Even more disconcerting is the pace and type of innovation these days. New things are getting invented, but less quickly than in the past and, possibly, with less impact on society. One respected economist argues that while the iPhone is impressive, getting one isn't nearly as life-changing as was acquiring an indoor toilet for past generations.

This seems overstated. Who knows what will come from 3-D printing, nanotechnology, drones, driverless cars, or genomics? Technological change appears to occur in waves, and the lulls often produce hand-wringing over where and when the next new thing will appear.

Regardless, we need to take the slump in business formations seriously. Immigration reform to admit more highly skilled workers from abroad would provide a significant boost. Immigrants by definition are risk-takers—they take big chances moving to a new country—who have historically started lots of new businesses.

More investment in public infrastructure would be another plus. Today's start-ups are globally oriented and need world-class telecommunications, airports, seaports, and roads.

Spending more on education and training, and easing student debt burdens, would help get the millennials on track. One step in this direction would be reducing taxpayer subsidies for student lending, and using that money to increase the supply of educational services.

Patent reform and a more aggressive government effort to protect intellectual property rights from global competitors would mean a lot to new technology firms. Lawmakers should also be sensitive to the implications of the legal and regulatory changes they make on new businesses.

It has always been a mistake to underestimate the dynamism of the American economy. I suspect that is still the case today. But the recent slowdown in business formations is worthy of careful attention. New businesses are what make our economy tick.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Simple charms of paradise

With paralysis from persistent fiscal dystopia (budgetary shortfall), there's nowhere else to go for solace nor do I know how to dogpaddle out of the mounting danger ahead. So I've taken refuge in the simple charms of these isles that offers calm, even allowing for resetting buttons, alone.

Took a glimpse of the wide open ocean, the deep blue sea lanes, the calm breeze of summer, the blue skies of paradise, ships calling from distant shores, combined with the friendliness of islanders, which should promote a special bond and mutual respect in the conduct of business.

These are quiescent reminders of the resounding majestic ambience that paves the way to calm and thoughtful reassessment of our future. It's time to bring forth that resiliency we're known for in both calm and storm. But does the elected elite understand this at all?

Foreign investment paradigm

We've lost major investments to which we haven't seen replacement industries to fill the vacuum in major revenue losses. There emerged a lull where nothing has happened to peek into the real benefits or otherwise of foreign investments on the islands.

Whose economic barometer are we using on this score? Is the continued acceptance of the foreign investment paradigm the gospel truth? Is this just a substitution for the lack of or failed policies?

We tried defending the apparel industry but lost it. However, two vital issues emerged: Loss of control of immigration and Mt. Puerto Rico that will need some \$30 million to clean up. It's time to thoroughly review the foreign investment paradigm to secure a clearer picture if it has or hasn't worked to scaffold the needs of the local coffers.

In his column titled "A policy of poverty," Manuel F. Almario says: "Now a new book has been published, based on research covering three centuries since the Industrial Revolution, which asserts that the Asian countries that have emerged from poverty since World War II did so without substantial investment from wealthy countries. *Capital in the 21st Century* by Thomas Piketty, an economics professor at the Paris School of Economics, has been a best-seller since its publication.

"Piketty points out: 'None of the Asian countries that have moved

closer to developed countries in the West in recent years has benefited from large foreign investments, whether it be Japan, South Korea, or Taiwan and more recently China. In essence, all of these countries themselves financed the necessary investments in physical capital and, even more, in human capital [knowledge and skills], which the latest research holds to be the key to long-term economic growth."

It's an issue of real challenge we must discuss in deliberative fashion with coherence so we know where do we go from here.

On high power rates

One of the hosts of the radio show Marianas Agupa struggled to justify the high cost of power Marianas-wide. Nice try!

The right answer (that was never spouted) to ease the fatally egregious power rate is to grow the economy. This hasn't happened in the last 10 years. In fact, some 52 percent of employees are underemployed, meaning they have jobs that fall within the federal definition of poverty income level.

The huge drop in revenue generation forced the cut by 25 percent of pension pay. Piled atop this heavy cut against working families is the 40 percent increase in health premiums, including \$500 to \$1,000 in health deductibles we must pay for treatment at CHC.

In brief, no matter how you dice or splice it, federal court intervention on the settlement fund (retirement) and CUC is a tale of negligence and incompetence on the part of those at the helm, like it or not. So no matter the justification, all roads lead to negligence! The truth may hurt but it's the truth!

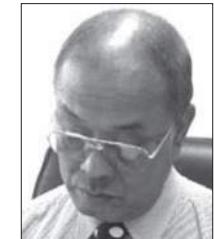
Macau: Loss of casino revenue

The banner story in last Sunday's *Wall Street Journal* (Sept. 28, 2014) talks of revenue loss in Macau by as much as 16 percent over the last three months. This is the net result of pressure being placed against "junket tours" by the government of China, the United States, and casinos themselves.

On the same page is another story of casino stocks crumbling in nearby Hong Kong. The Chinese government has begun corruption investigation into junket tours. It disallows the transfer of millions of dollars from mainland China to Macau.

The U.S. casino operations have insisted on securing information

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

of junket tour clientele given that this is where the triad makes their money. Casinos have also put on pressure because it is competing for the same revenues with junket tours. And so the glitz of billions of dollars has somewhat taken the slow lane.

Looking ahead, wouldn't it be harder to bring in high rollers when China now prohibits the transfer of millions of dollars? It kills junket tours that don't bode well luring high rollers. Staying low will keep us low until our industry disappears in bankruptcy land!

Discovery!

The term "discovery" has come under critical scrutiny by contemporary history scholars, specifically its use that only suits the purpose of half-cocked historians a long time ago. It's the maligned use of the term and the wrong information conveyed that now paddles backward for accuracy.

Did Christopher Columbus discover America? Wasn't he looking for the West Indies in search of expensive spices? That Native Americans have been living in the U.S. for centuries, how could there be a discovery? Isn't it more fitting to explore when did Native Americans come to America and declare such time and date the "discovery" of the new world?

When Magellan landed on the shores of Guam, was the trip a "discovery?" So why dignify an historical anomaly as "Discovery Day?" Not only did the Spaniards call the island "Ladrones," it sold the people and island of Guam to the United States. Isn't this the most egregious form of slavery in modern history? And please don't tell me it's the beginning of modern commerce in the Pacific!

What Obama could learn from George W. Bush about war

Replaying the video of President Bush's 2007 warning against a premature withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq is all the rage. Millions of Americans have "gone to the tape."

But unlike a referee's decision in an NFL game, President Obama's blown call on this question can't be reversed. There are no do-overs in war.

Still, Bush's comments are more than a touchstone of thoughts about what might have been. They are worth reflecting upon, for they remind us of what's important in crafting a war-winning strategy.

Bush's points are based on much long, hard thinking by him and his staff. That type of effort, apparently missing in this White House (given the spate of contradictory threat assessments regarding ISIS), needs to be made once again as America contemplates the next campaign in this long war.

Bush's declaration is a reminder that perfection isn't the measure of what makes a good commander-in-chief. Everybody makes judgments and mistakes in war.

George Washington lost many battles before winning the war at Yorktown. FDR flinched at terrible setbacks from Pearl Harbor, Tarawa and the Kasserine Pass on through the Battle of the Bulge and Operation Market Garden. Truman had his Task Force Smith.

Setbacks happen.

Strong war leaders look forward, not backward. They focus on the mission ahead. Bush wasn't worried about plummeting popularity, Code Pink, angry Democrats or an upset base. He was looking ahead and prepared to do the tough tasks that had to be done—even though they were hard and unpopular—because they were needed to get the job done.

Since the disaster in Benghazi, Obama's instincts have been exactly the opposite. The bold leader who engineered the take-down of Qaddafi has become doggedly risk averse. His preferred course action veers toward the option that requires the least commitment and will produce the least criticism.

Bush also recognized a key fact of war: the enemy gets a vote. Consequently, he realized that even the most successful surge would produce a fragile peace. Sectarian conflict could erupt at any time. Al-Qaida or its affiliates might make a comeback. Iran could not be trusted.

So, he rightly reasoned, there needed to be an insurance policy

against any of these contingencies. U.S. troops, even if they were fighting no one, provided a hedge against future sectarian struggles, resurgent terrorist campaigns or outside invasion.

Yet Obama let Iraq's safety net slip away. Worse, there was no "plan B" addressing what to do if chaos returned to Iraq.

Our president treats national security as a series of discrete tasks to be accomplished, like homework. All too often, he appears to have forgotten the lessons of that homework once it's handed in. Foreign policy and national security are not problems to solve, but a constant competition of action and counteraction.

Finally, Bush's comments demonstrated how he had matured as a strategic leader. The Bush of 9/11 was not the Bush of 2008. His administration made major misjudgments in the run-up to and the aftermath of the Iraq. But Bush changed and grew as a strategic leader. As the war got worse, he became more self-confident and proactive.

In contrast, Obama entered the Oval Office with a predictable, incremental and minimalist approach to force and diplomacy. He hasn't changed.

He has not evolved as a strategic leader. Indeed, his "strategy" speech on dealing with ISIS can pretty much be summed up as: "We are going to keep doing pretty much what we've been doing the last four years." That makes no sense. The global terrorism threat

By JAMES CARAFANO

Heritage Foundation



James Jay Carafano is vice president for defense and foreign policy studies at The Heritage Foundation.

has rebounded since 2010. Yet Obama remains mired in the same, demonstrably inadequate mindset.

It is not important to have policymakers debate who was right, who was wrong, how we got here, and who's at fault. Leave that discussion to the historians.

It's far more important for policymakers to concentrate on the here-and-now and the future. They need to understand the world as it is—then figure out what needs to be done and put things right. A sense of history is helpful; replaying history in your head over and over again ... not so much.

Instead of spending so much energy and effort explaining why the Obama way of war is so much different and smarter than the Bush way of war, the president should invest his energies in winning the war to be won.

EDITORIAL

From Page 10

ney recently sold for \$74 million.

In India, however, \$74 million is all that's needed to send a satellite into orbit around Mars.

Determined to explore the red planet ahead of rival China—and to demonstrate its technical prowess—the world's second-most populous country this week succeeded in delivering its Mars orbiter to the intended destination 420 million miles away.

For \$74 million, NASA expects to spend nine times more on its latest (and much more complex) Mars program.

India kept the costs of its space shot low by adapting cheap, indigenous technology, limiting the payload to a modest 33 pounds and using the Earth's gravity to slingshot its craft out of orbit instead of

powering through with a larger, more expensive rocket.

Critics have questioned how India can justify spending one dime on a Mars craft when hundreds of millions of Indians live in poverty. The spectacle of another nuclear-armed country navigating craft in the solar system gives security experts pause as well.

We're inclined to applaud the thrift, at least. There's a lesson here for NASA, for any government agency or private enterprise that seeks to make commercial and scientific advances in space. India says its Mars expedition is intended to prove it has the technical capacity to compete for space business against Americans and Europeans. Sending a satellite aloft can be a low-budget affair.

India is making the most out of space without breaking the bank on terra firma.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy and windy with occasional heavy showers and scattered thunderstorms. South winds 25 to 35 mph.	Mostly cloudy and windy with numerous showers. South winds 25 to 35 mph.	Mostly cloudy with numerous showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 83	▼ 79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 81
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85	▼ 81
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85	▼ 78
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85	▼ 78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 63	▼ 51
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73	▼ 52
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 85	▼ 78
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 87	▼ 75
London	Cloudy	▲ 69	▼ 56
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85	▼ 64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 88	▼ 75
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 63	▼ 49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 86	▼ 75
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73	▼ 60
Osaka	Showers	▲ 82	▼ 70
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74	▼ 53
Pusan	Rain	▲ 74	▼ 62
Rome	Rain	▲ 74	▼ 62
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 67	▼ 45
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77	▼ 61
Seoul	Showers	▲ 68	▼ 54
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81	▼ 71
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78	▼ 61

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:07 AM	6:07 PM	Today	11:53 AM	11:36 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM	Thursday	12:48 PM	
Friday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM	Friday	1:41 PM	12:35 AM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM	Saturday	2:34 PM	1:34 AM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM	Sunday	3:25 PM	2:34 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SAR Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2014

DEPARTURES

ARRIVALS

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5077	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5040	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5078	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:05pm	2, 4
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)			
DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (IC

Business

You may be your retirement fund's worst enemy

By GAIL MARKSJARVIS
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Ask just about anyone near retirement age if they think they will have plenty of money to last through retirement and you're likely to see their insecurity.

A new study by the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College shows they aren't being overly pessimistic.

The typical working household close to retirement age had only \$111,000 at the end of 2013 in their 401(k) savings plan at work and individual retirement accounts outside of work, according to Alicia Munnell, the center's director. That \$111,000 would provide only \$500 a month for living expenses if converted to an annuity.

Despite a stock market that's soared the past five years, households have less stashed away for retirement now than they had in 2010. Then, the typical household had \$120,000.

Perhaps the decline is a result of ongoing hard times, individuals still recovering from layoffs, struggling with debt, sending children to colleges they can't afford and getting by on paychecks that don't ever plump up.

Munnell's dive into the Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances about American households shows a dreary picture of the retirement years ahead for most working Americans over 55. Her report raises questions about whether the 401(k) system of preparing for retirement is failing Americans.

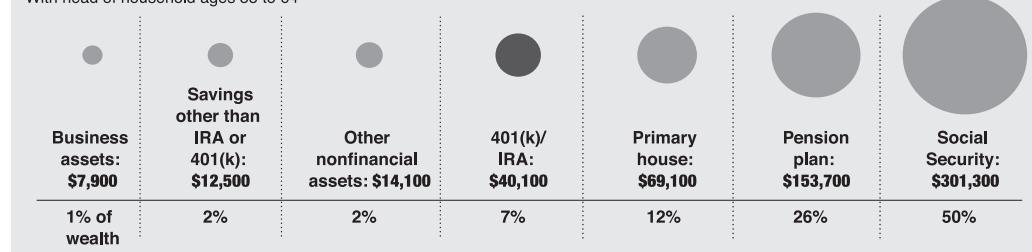
In the early 1980s, most employers offered workers pensions known as defined-benefit plans. With those plans, employees who stayed on the job long enough to qualify for a pension didn't have to think

Top sources of retirement income

According to a 2013 survey by the Federal Reserve, 401(k) savings will not be the largest source of income for a typical household nearing retirement. The largest source of income will come from Social Security.

Typical sources of wealth by category

With head of household ages 55 to 64



Source: Center for Retirement Research at Boston College
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

by investing in index funds rather than actively managed funds," Munnell said.

The mistakes of not saving, saving too little, borrowing from a 401(K) and paying expensive fees have a huge effect.

Munnell calculates that a 60-year-old in 2013 who had saved since the age of 29 would end up with only \$100,000 versus \$373,000 if they hadn't been sidetracked by the common mistakes. It breaks down like this: Fees reduce the balance to \$314,000; withdrawals during job changes or loans cut it to \$236,000; inconsistent contributions further reduce it to \$165,000; and a failure to contribute at times can lower the balance to \$100,000.

With too little in savings, the typical household is going to be highly dependent on Social Security. But Munnell notes that Social Security is going to provide less to future retirees. The

retirement age is moving from 65 to 67, so people who retire at the ages of 62 to 65 will see their monthly benefits cut more than now.

In addition, people will need to pay more for Medicare. Medicare payments are taken out of Social Security before the government sends checks to retirees. In addition, higher taxes will reduce their Social Security because benefits are not indexed to account for inflation.

The average monthly Social Security benefit in 2013 was \$1,294.

Munnell figures about half of Americans will have to adjust to a lower standard of living in retirement than they were used to in their working years. In a survey early this year by the Employee Benefit Research Institute, only 18 percent of Americans said they were very confident that they would have enough money to live comfortably in retirement.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Toyota recalls 690,000 pickups to fix rear springs

DETROIT (AP)—Toyota says it is recalling 690,000 Tacoma pickup trucks because the rear leaf springs could break, puncture the gas tank and cause a fire. The recall covers Tacoma Four-by-Four and Pre-Runner pickups from the 2005 through 2011 model years. The automaker says the leaf springs can fracture due to stress and corrosion. They can move out of position and come into contact with surrounding components, including the gas tank. Toyota says it's not aware of any fires, crashes or injuries from the problem. Owners will be notified by mail and Toyota says dealers will fix the problem at no cost. Owners with questions can call Toyota at (800) 331-4331.

US consumer spending up 0.5 percent in August

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans boosted spending by a healthy amount in August, offering welcome evidence that the economy is on solid footing heading into the final quarter of the year. Consumer spending in August rose 0.5 percent from the previous month after showing no gain in July, the Commerce Department reported Monday. It was the best result since spending also expanded

0.5 percent in June. Helped by higher wages and salaries, income rose a modest 0.3 percent in August, slightly faster than a 0.2 percent July increase. The acceleration in spending added to signs that the economy is sustaining strength in the current July-September quarter.

Microsoft to offer early look at next Windows

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft plans to offer a glimpse of its vision for Windows this week, as its new CEO seeks to redefine the company and recover from missteps with its flagship operating system. Although the new software won't be formally released until next year, analysts already consider its success crucial for Microsoft and Satya Nadella, who has made mobile devices and Internet-based services priorities since becoming CEO in February. With its tablet-like touch controls, Windows 8 had been Microsoft's answer to slumping sales in personal computers amid a rising demand for mobile devices. But the company alienated many users by forcing radical behavioral changes. Research firm IDC even blamed Windows 8 for accelerating a decline in PC sales in the first full quarter following the system's release in October 2012.

ATM fees continue climbing, survey says

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The penalty for using an ATM that is not affiliated with your bank rose 5 percent over the past year.

The average fee for using an out-of-network ATM climbed to a new high of \$4.35 per transaction, according to a survey released Monday by Bankrate.com. That figure includes \$2.77 that banks charge non-customers and \$1.58 that banks levy against their own customers for using an outside ATM.

Overdraft fees also surged,

rising on average over the past 12 months to \$32.74. That's the 16th consecutive record high, the firm said.

Checking account fees have been increasing as lenders adjust to federal banking laws and regulations enacted after the 2008 financial crisis. Among the changes: limits on when banks can charge overdraft fees on ATM and debit card transactions and a reduction in the fees that banks charge merchants for each

customer who uses credit or debit cards for their purchases.

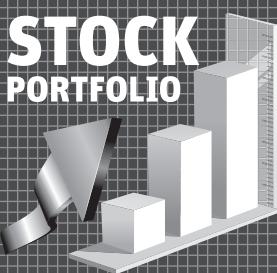
Lenders have responded by hiking overdraft and ATM fees, as well as increasing how much money customers must maintain in the bank to avoid checking account fees.

"I expect fees to continue increasing in years to come, but at a modest pace consistent with what we saw this year, just as was the case prior to the onset of these regulations," said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst

at Bankrate.com.

Using another bank's ATM will usually lead to two fees. One is charged by your lender; the other is charged by the owner of the ATM. That's the fee that's risen most consistently and at a faster rate, McBride said.

All told, the average fee for using an out-of-network ATM has vaulted 23 percent over the past five years. It has notched a new high for eight years in a row, according to Bankrate.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

17,071.22
-41.93
-0.25%

S&P

1,977.80
-5.05
-0.25%

NASDAQ

4,505.85
-6.342
-0.14%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.1425	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7632	Philippine Peso	44.8670
British Pound	0.6152	Indian Rupee	61.6567	Russian Ruble	39.3952
Canadian Dollar	1.1149	Indonesian Rupiah	12,173.0145	Singapore Dollar	1.2735
Chinese Yuan	6.1470	Japanese Yen	109.3704	South Korean Won	1,055.4491
Euro	0.7880	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2729	Taiwan Dollar	30.4385
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2812	Thailand Baht	32.3781

Nation

White House intruder got far past the front door

WASHINGTON (AP)—The intruder who climbed a fence made it farther inside the White House than the Secret Service has publicly acknowledged, a Republican congressman said Monday. The disclosures came on the eve of a congressional oversight hearing with the director of the embattled agency assigned to protect the president's life.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, said Monday night that whistleblowers told his committee that the intruder ran through the White House, into the East Room and near the doors to the Green Room before being apprehended. They also told the committee that the intruder made it past a female guard stationed inside the

White House, Chaffetz said.

In the hours after the Sept. 19 fence-jumper incident, Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan told The Associated Press that the suspect had been apprehended just inside the North Portico doors of the White House. The Secret Service also said that night that the suspect had been unarmed—an assertion that was revealed to be false the next day when officials acknowledged that Omar J. Gonzalez had a knife with him when he was apprehended.

"I'm worried that over the last several years, security has gotten worse—not better," Chaffetz said.

He said his committee's request for a briefing from the Secret Service on the incident was denied.

It was not clear late Monday what Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson was told about the extent of the incident.

Senate Judiciary Committee staffers who were briefed about the investigation by the administration a week after the incident were never told that Gonzalez had made it deep into the building, said a congressional official who wasn't authorized to discuss the investigation and requested anonymity. The official said the committee later was told that the suspect had, indeed, made it far beyond the front door.

Citing multiple unnamed sources, The Washington Post reported that Gonzalez, 42, ran past the guard at the front door, past a staircase leading

up to the Obamas' living quarters and into the East Room, which is about halfway across the first floor of the building. Gonzalez was eventually "tackled" by a counter-assault agent, the Post said.

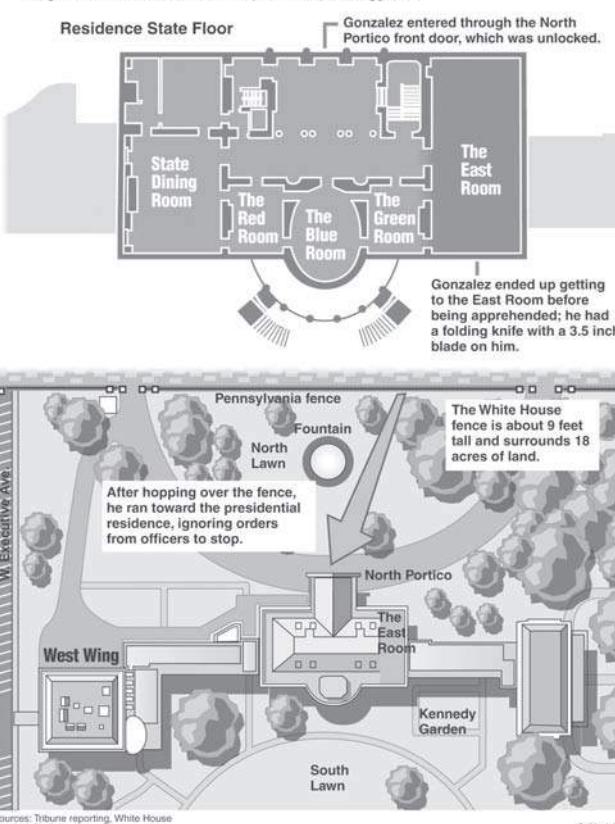
Getting so far would have required Gonzalez to dash through the main entrance hall, turn a corner, then run through the center hallway half-way across the first floor of the building, which spans 168 feet in total, according to the White House Historical Association.

The latest details to emerge about the troubling breach were expected to dominate questioning by lawmakers on Tuesday of Secret Service Director Julia Pierson at a House committee hearing—her first testimony since the incident. A Secret Service spokesman declined to comment Monday because of the ongoing investigation.

Chaffetz said he planned to question Pierson about concerns raised by whistleblowers that audible alarms intended to alert officers to an intrusion had been muted. He also said the committee learned Monday night that, in a departure from normal prac-

White House breach: update

Omar Gonzalez, 42, the man accused of breaking into the White House on Sept. 22, had gotten farther into the house than previous reports suggested.



Sources: Tribune reporting, White House
Graphic: Staff

tice, Pierson did not submit any testimony in advance.

Since the incident, the White House has treaded carefully. Although White House spokesman Josh Ear-

nest acknowledged the president was "obviously concerned" about the intrusion, he also expressed confidence in the Secret Service as recently as Monday.

Dozens of possible jurors rejected in Arias case

AP
In this Jan. 9, 2013, file photo, Jodi Arias appears for her trial in Maricopa County Superior court in Phoenix.



PHOENIX (AP)—Roughly a third of 300 potential jurors were dismissed Monday in the penalty retrial of convicted murderer Jodi Arias after telling a judge they had seen too much media coverage of her first trial to be impartial or had already made up their minds about her punishment.

Other jurors were let go due to work conflicts or language barriers, among other reasons, as jury selection began in the second attempt by prosecutors to secure a death sentence in the Arizona case that became a tabloid TV sensation.

Arias, 34, has acknowledged killing ex-boyfriend Travis Alexander in 2008 at his suburban Phoenix home but claimed it was self-defense. He suffered nearly 30 knife wounds, had his throat slit and was shot in the head.

Prosecutors argued it was premeditated murder carried out in a jealous rage when Alexander wanted to end their affair.

Arias, a former waitress, was found guilty last year, and the murder conviction will stand as

lawyers spar again over whether she should die for the crime.

Arias was previously found unable to pay for her own attorneys and the cost to taxpayers for her defense so far has topped \$2.5 million, Maricopa County spokeswoman Cari Gerchick said. The cost will keep rising during the penalty phase retrial, which is expected to last into December.

Another 100 prospective jurors were set to be brought in Wednesday. No proceeding were set Tuesday in the case.

Arias glanced back at the media at one point on Monday and smiled just before jurors started arriving. The victim's sister and her husband also sat in the courtroom watching the proceedings.

Some of the prospective jurors who were dismissed said they had already seen so much media coverage of the first trial that they couldn't put it out of their minds and would not be able to make a decision based only on information presented at the penalty retrial.

The upcoming proceedings will not be televised live after the judge ruled that no video footage can be broadcast until after the verdict.

If the new jury fails to reach a unanimous decision, the death penalty will be removed as an option and the judge will sentence Arias to spend her life behind bars or to be eligible for release after 25 years.

Arias' five-month trial began in January 2013 and was broadcast live, providing endless cable TV and tabloid fodder, including a recorded phone sex call between Arias and the victim, nude photos, bloody crime-scene pictures and a defendant who described her life story in intimate detail over 18 days on the witness stand.

Alexander's family sat in the front row of the courtroom throughout the trial, often sobbing, looking away from horrific photographs, and wincing as Arias described the victim as an abusive boyfriend who wanted nothing but sex.

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—

Alton Nolen told relatives after his release from prison on drug and assault charges last year that he wanted to focus on getting his life in order.

But postings on the Facebook page of the 30-year-old Nolen, suspected of beheading a woman at an Oklahoma food distribution center, suggest that shortly after his release in March 2013, he became more interested in spreading the message of his newfound Islamic faith.

"I spoke to him once he was released, and when we spoke, there was nothing of the sort,"

Beheading suspect's conversion surprised family

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—

Alton Nolen told relatives after his release from prison on drug and assault charges last year that he wanted to focus on getting his life in order.

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"I spoke to him once he was released, and when we spoke, there was nothing of the sort,"

Police link 2nd case to missing Va. student arrest

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—

A forensic clue uncovered in the investigation of a missing University of Virginia student has led investigators to believe they have "a significant break" in the unsolved death of another young woman who had vanished from the campus five years ago, police said Monday, and perhaps an unsolved rape from years before.

Jesse L. Matthew Jr., 32, was charged last week with abduction with intent to defile in the case of 18-year-old Hannah Graham, who was last seen on Sept. 13 after she attended a party.

Leading up to Matthew's ar-

rest, police had searched his car and home and removed items, including clothing, that they consider evidence, though they have not been specific. On Monday, Virginia State Police said in a statement that the arrest "provided a significant break in this case with a new forensic link for state police investigators to pursue" in the death of 20-year-old Morgan Harrington, who, like Graham, vanished from the Charlottesville campus.

The Virginia Tech student from Roanoke had gone to John Paul Jones Arena for a Metallica concert on Oct. 17, 2009. A farmer found her remains three months later in an Alber-

marie County hayfield, which was among the places searched shortly after Graham disappeared, police have said.

The state police statement provided no specifics about what sort of forensic evidence led to the connection in the cases.

State police said they would have no further comment on the new lead, and neither Charlottesville Police Chief Timothy Longo nor Capt. Gary Pleasants returned telephone messages. Charlottesville Commonwealth's Attorney Dave Chapman and Matthew's attorney, James Camblos, also did not respond to messages.

Asia

Hong Kong leader says Beijing won't back down

HONG KONG (AP)—Pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong set a Wednesday deadline for a response from the government to meet their demands for reforms after spending another night blocking streets in an unprecedented show of civil disobedience.

A brief statement from the Occupy Central civil disobedience movement said it had set an Oct. 1 deadline for the city's unpopular chief executive, Leung Chun-ying, to meet their demands for genuine democracy and for him to step down as Hong Kong's leader.

The group said on Twitter it would "announce new civil disobedience plans same day," without elaborating.

Even larger crowds are expected to flood the streets Wednesday, China's National Day holiday. The government said it was canceling a fireworks display to mark the day.

Leung on Tuesday urged Occupy Central to take into account the considerations of other residents and stop its protest, which has snarled traffic and disrupted public transport for days. But he said China's communist leaders in Beijing would not back down from an August decision to restrict voting reforms for the first direct elections to pick his successor in 2017.

"The central government will not rescind its decision," he said.

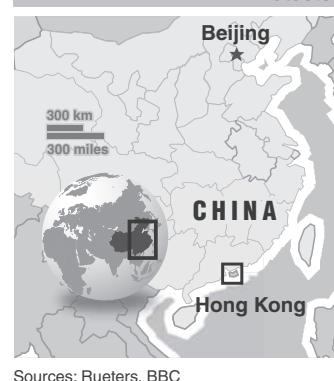
One day after police shocked the city by firing tear gas at the crowds, the protesters passed a peaceful night Monday singing as the blocked streets in several

parts of Hong Kong. They also staged a brief "mobile light" vigil, waving their glowing cell phones as the protests stretched into their fourth day. Crowds chanted calls for Leung to resign, and sang anthems calling for freedom.

Police arrested a man who drove his Mercedes-Benz through a crowd of protesters occupying a street in the densely populated Kowloon neighborhood of Mong Kok. Local television footage showed people scrambling as the car sped through the crowd while honking just before 2 a.m. No one was injured.

Hong Kong protests continue

Tens of thousands of pro-democracy protesters mass for a fourth day Monday.



Sources: Reuters, BBC
Graphic: Greg Good

© 2014 TCA

By Tuesday morning, the crowd, mostly students, continued to occupy a six-lane highway next to the local government

headquarters. The encampment was also edging closer to the heart of the city's financial district.

Police said they used 87 rounds of tear gas Sunday in what they called a necessary but restrained response

to protesters pushing through cordons and barricades. They said 41 people were injured, including 12 police officers.



Wrapped in plastic to shield from pepper spray, a student protester stands behind a makeshift barrier blocking main streets in the central business district of Hong Kong, late Monday, Sept. 29, 2014.

5 more bodies found at Japan volcano; toll now 36

KISO, Japan (AP)—Toxic gases and ash from still-erupting Mount Ontake forced Japanese rescue workers to call off the search for more victims Monday as dozens of relatives awaited news of their family members.

Rescuers found five more bodies near the summit of the volcano, bringing the death toll to 36. They have managed to airlift only 12 bodies off the mountain since the start of the eruption on Saturday because of dangerous conditions.

How the victims died remains unclear, though experts say it was probably from suffocating ash, falling rocks, toxic gases or some combination of them. Some of the bodies had severe contusions.

Survivors told Japanese media that they were pelted by rocks from the eruption. One man said he fled with others to the basement of a lodge, fearing that the rocks would penetrate the roof.

Yuji Tsuno, a veteran mountain photographer, was near the summit. After taking pictures of the initial explosion as ash and debris rained down, he quickly took refuge in a nearby hut, he told the TBS TV network.

About 20 minutes later, when the smoke partially subsided, he rushed out and began his descent. It was a gamble, but he believed it was his only

Deadly eruption

36 presumed dead in volcano eruption Saturday



Source: Reuters, BBC
Graphic: Staff

© 2014 MCT

chance, he said.

"I almost thought it was the end of my life," he said in the interview.

On his way down, he spotted a man heading up. "I told him to go down with me, but he said he had to check on his child up there. I couldn't stop him," Tsuno said.

The eruption caught seismologists by surprise. Although somewhat increased seismic activity had been recorded for about two weeks, there were no indications of a major eruption, said Satoshi Deguchi, a Japan Meteorological Agency official in Nagano prefecture. Typical signs, such as

increased seismic rattling or underground structural movement, were not detected.

Japanese TV showed soldiers carrying a series of body bags on Monday morning to a military helicopter that had landed in a relatively wide-open area of the now bleak landscape, its rotors still spinning.

The bodies were flown to a nearby athletic field and then taken to a small wooden elementary school in the nearby town of Kiso, where they were being examined in the gymnasium.

Family members of the missing waited at a nearby municipal hall.

Afghan president sworn in, paving way for US pact

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan swore in Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai as its second elected president on Monday, embarking on a new era with a national unity government poised to confront a resilient Taliban insurgency by signing an agreement with the United States that would guarantee a continuing American military presence.

As Hamid Karzai left the political stage, the new president was locked into an uneasy partnership with his defeated rival, Abdullah Abdullah, who became the country's first chief executive. With a hug for the cameras, both sides appeared determined to reach across factions and avoid a descent into an abyss similar to what has happened in Iraq, where the government's failure to mend lingering sectarian divisions following a full U.S. withdrawal helped give rise to the brutal Islamic State group.

The new Afghan govern-

ment was expected Tuesday to sign a security agreement that provides a legal framework for the United States to keep about 9,800 troops in the country to train, advise and assist Afghan national security forces after the current international combat mission ends Dec. 31. That number of troops is expected to be cut in half by the end of 2015, and the U.S. would leave only about 1,000 in a security office after the end of 2016.

Karzai, the outgoing president, had refused to approve the deal, which is intended to help Afghan security forces combat the resilient Taliban insurgency.

The Afghan government also is expected to sign an agreement this week with NATO that would outline the parameters of 4,000 to 5,000 additional international troops—mostly from Britain, Germany, Italy and Turkey—to stay in Afghanistan in a noncombat role after the end of this year.

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Japan, N. Korea discuss abductions of Japanese

SHENYANG, China (AP)—North Korea said Monday it is moving ahead with an investigation into the abduction of Japanese civilians by North Korean agents in the 1970s and '80s but is not yet ready to provide a preliminary report demanded by Japan.

Japanese negotiator Junichi Ihara and North Korea's Song Il Ho held a day of talks in the northeastern Chinese city of Shenyang. Tokyo was hoping to receive preliminary results of the probe, which North Korea had earlier agreed to conduct. However, Song said after

the meeting that the talks were not intended for reporting any results.

"Both sides agreed to ... cooperate well, and both sides shared the view to continuously put effort into doing so," Song said. "For sure, the talks were not about reporting results of the investigation."

Ihara said the Japanese delegation strongly urged North Korea to "promptly conduct a comprehensive and thorough re-examination" of Japanese believed to have been abducted by North Korea.

In 2002, North Korea ac-

knowledged that its agents had kidnapped 13 Japanese, mainly to train spies in Japanese language and culture. It allowed five of them to return to Japan that year but said the others had died. Japan has officially recognized 17 such cases, but believes hundreds more people may have been abducted and that many of them may still be alive.

North Korea agreed in May to launch a new probe into the abductions, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has demanded that it expedite that investigation.

World

Islamic State closes in on Kurdish area of Syria

ANTAKYA, Turkey (AP)—Militants of the Islamic State group were closing in Monday on a Kurdish area of Syria on the border with Turkey—an advance unhindered so far by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, including one that struck a grain silo, killing two civilians, according to activists.

Islamic State fighters pounded the city of Kobani with mortars and artillery shells, advancing within three miles (five kilometers) of the Kurdish frontier city, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Nawaf Khalil, a Kurdish official.

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—In a blistering speech to the United Nations, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned on Monday that Hamas and the Islamic State group are “branches of the same poisonous tree,” both bent on world domination through terror, just as the Nazis were.

Netanyahu also lashed back at Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who accused Israel last week of carrying out war crimes and waging a “war of genocide” during the fighting in Gaza. Netanyahu said Hamas committed “the real war crimes” in Gaza by using Palestinian civilians as human shields.

Addressing the U.N. General Assembly’s annual ministerial meeting, the Israeli leader argued that Israel’s fight against Hamas and the U.S. military campaign against the Islamic State are part of the same cause—the defeat of Islamic extremism.

Netanyahu railed against world leaders for simultaneously condemning the Jewish state for its war with Hamas and praising President Barack Obama for attacking Islamic State militants and other extremists in Syria and Iraq.

The Islamic extremists intensified their shelling of the border region following U.S.-led strikes Saturday. The aerial assault appeared to have done little to thwart the militants, Kurdish officials and activists said, adding that of anything, the extremists seemed more determined to seize the area, which would deepen their control over territory stretching from the Turkish border, across Syria and to the western edge of Baghdad.

“Instead of pushing them back, now every time they hear the planes, they shell more,” Ahmad Sheikho, an activist operating along the Syria-Turkey border, said of the Islamic State fighters.

He estimated he heard a rocket explosion every 15 minutes or so.

Three mortar shells landed in a field in nearby Turkey, the Turkish military said in a statement. After the strike, Turkey’s military moved tanks away from the army post in the area, positioning them on a hill overlooking the border.

The push by Islamic State fighters caused thousands more Kurds to flee the Kobani area on Monday, adding to some 150,000 refugees who have fled to Turkey since mid-September, one of the largest influxes of Syrian refugees since the war began 3 1/2 years ago.

The Kurds were particularly fearful that the militants would repeat the mass killings of men and seizures of women that occurred in Iraq in August, after Islamic State fighters seized villages dominated by Iraqis of the Yazidi minority.

Men were leaving their families in Turkey and then heading back to Kobani to fight, Sheikho said.

Washington and its Arab allies opened the air assault against the extremist group on Sept. 23, striking military facilities, training camps, heavy weapons and oil installations. The campaign expands upon the airstrikes the United States has been conducting against the militants in Iraq since early August.

The airstrikes are meant to ultimately destroy the group, which has declared a self-styled caliphate, or Islamic state, ruled by its harsh interpretation of Islamic law in areas under its control. Its brutal tactics, which include mass killings and beheadings, have galvanized the international community to take on the militants.

On Monday, the U.S.-led coalition carried out eight airstrikes targeting towns and villages in northern and eastern Syria controlled by the militants.

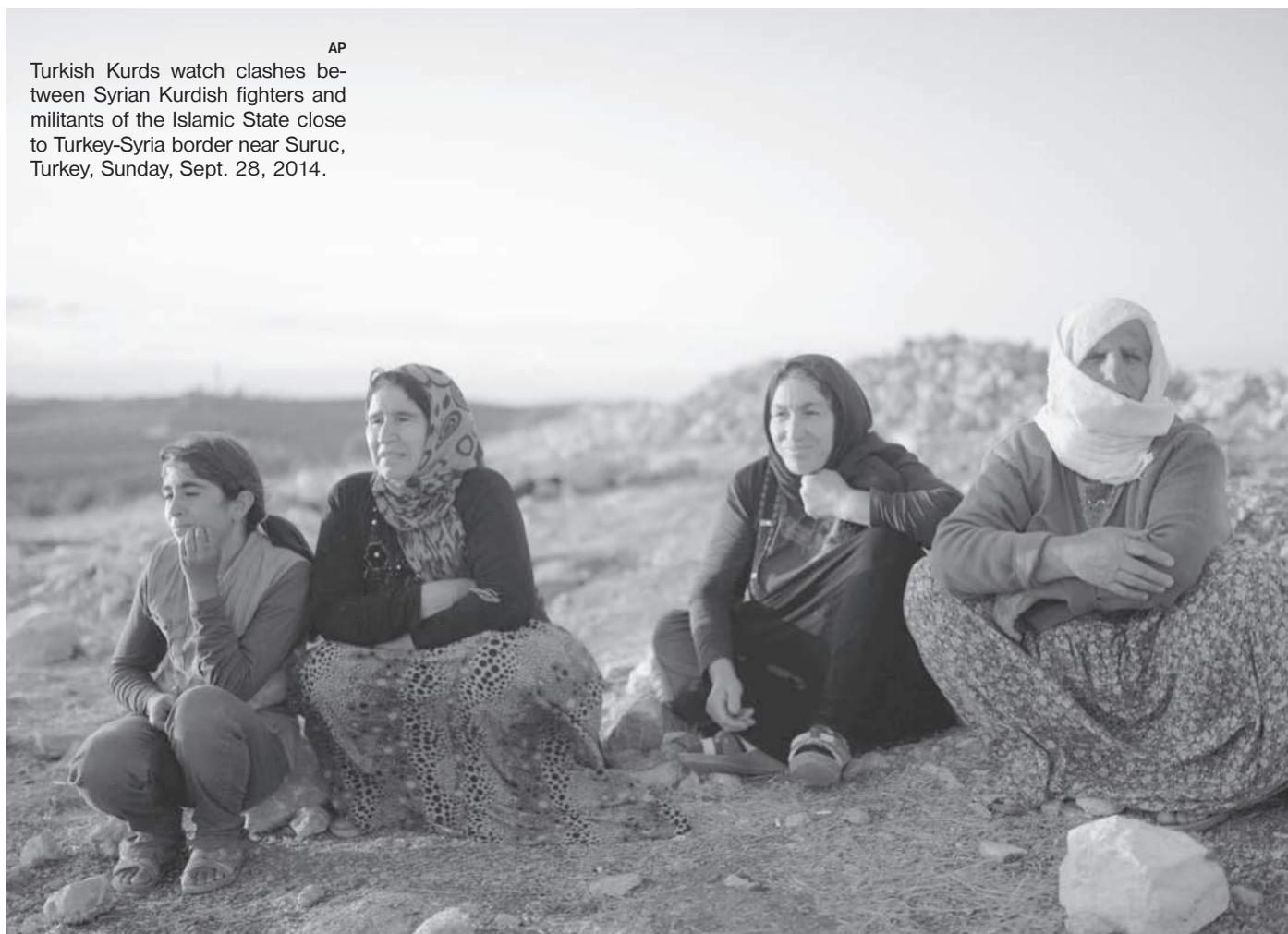
One strike hit a grain silo in the northern town of Manbij, setting it ablaze and killing two civilians working there, according to the Observatory’s director, Rami Abdurrahman.

“There was no ISIS inside,” Abdurrahman said, using an alternative name for the Islamic State group. The airstrikes, he said, “destroyed the food that was stored there.”

The U.S. Central Command said the silo was used by the militants “as a logistics hub and vehicle staging facility.”

Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said the U.S. was investigating reports that civilians were killed in the strike, but had found nothing so far to corroborate the allegation. He acknowledged, however, that

Turkish Kurds watch clashes between Syrian Kurdish fighters and militants of the Islamic State close to Turkey-Syria border near Suruc, Turkey, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014.



because of limitations of Pentagon intelligence in Syria, the U.S. could not be certain that every casualty of the coalition airstrikes was a combatant.

Another strike overnight hit the entrance of Syria’s largest

gas plant in the eastern Deir el-Zour province, but did not damage the facility itself, the Observatory said. U.S. Central Command said the strikes in Deir al-Zour hit two military vehicles.

More raids Monday morning struck the town of Tel Abyad on the Syria-Turkey border, according to a resident on the Turkish side of the frontier.

Mehmet Ozer, who witnessed the airstrikes from the Turkish

side of the border, told the Associated Press the raids hit an abandoned military base and an empty school, sending smoke and dust into the air. He said militants evacuated the base about three months ago.

Convicted priest says El Salvador backed gang work

MADRID (AP)—Those who love Antonio Rodriguez know him affectionately as “Father Tony,” the Roman Catholic priest who spent 15 years working in El Salvador’s roughest neighborhoods to get vulnerable young men out of a gang lifestyle that often ends in death.

Others say he got too close to the gangs that plague the Central American nation, helping hardened inmates get special treatment and potentially enabling their prison extortion rackets.

The detractors use a different nickname: The “gangster priest.” Salvadoran authorities con-



temporarily lowered sky-high murder rates.

The Salvadoran presidency and Ministry of Security declined requests to comment. But Rodriguez asserted that both were intimately involved in his dealings with jailed gang members

beginning in 2013. In an interview with The Associated Press, he said he acted on instructions from Security Minister Ricardo Perdomo and had long conversations with Salvador Sanchez Ceren in which the now-presi-

dent expressed his support.

“I had a role which was as a peace negotiator for the (new) minister,” Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez was found guilty Sept. 4 of delivering cellphones and SIM cards to inmates and asking prison authorities to lower the intensity of cellphone signal-jamming. He was sentenced to 2 1/2 years, released the same day and returned to his native Spain, where he spoke to the AP.

The 37-year-old priest said he was working at the behest of a government keen on reducing bloodshed.

Group: Wildlife populations down drastically

GENEVA (AP)—Populations of about 3,000 species of wildlife around the world have plummeted far worse than previously thought, according to a new study by one of the world’s biggest environmental groups.

The study Tuesday from the Swiss-based WWF largely blamed human threats to nature for a 52-percent decline in wildlife populations between 1970 and 2010.

It says improved methods of measuring populations of fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles explain the huge difference from the 28-percent

decline between 1970 and 2008 that the group reported in 2012.

Most of the new losses were

found in tropical regions, particularly Latin America.

WWF describes the study it

has carried out every two years

since 1998 as a barometer of the

state of the planet.

“There is no room for complacency,” said WWF International Director General Marco Lambertini, calling for a greater focus

on sustainable solutions to the impacts that people are inflicting on nature, particularly through the release of greenhouse gases.

The latest “Living Planet”

study analyzed data from about 10,000 populations of 3,038 vertebrate species from a database maintained by the Zoological Society of London. It is meant to provide a representative sampling of the overall wildlife population in the world, said WWF’s Richard McLellan, editor-in-chief of the study.

It reflects populations since

1970,

the first year the London-based society had comprehensive data. Each study is based on data from at least four years earlier.

Much of the world’s wildlife

has

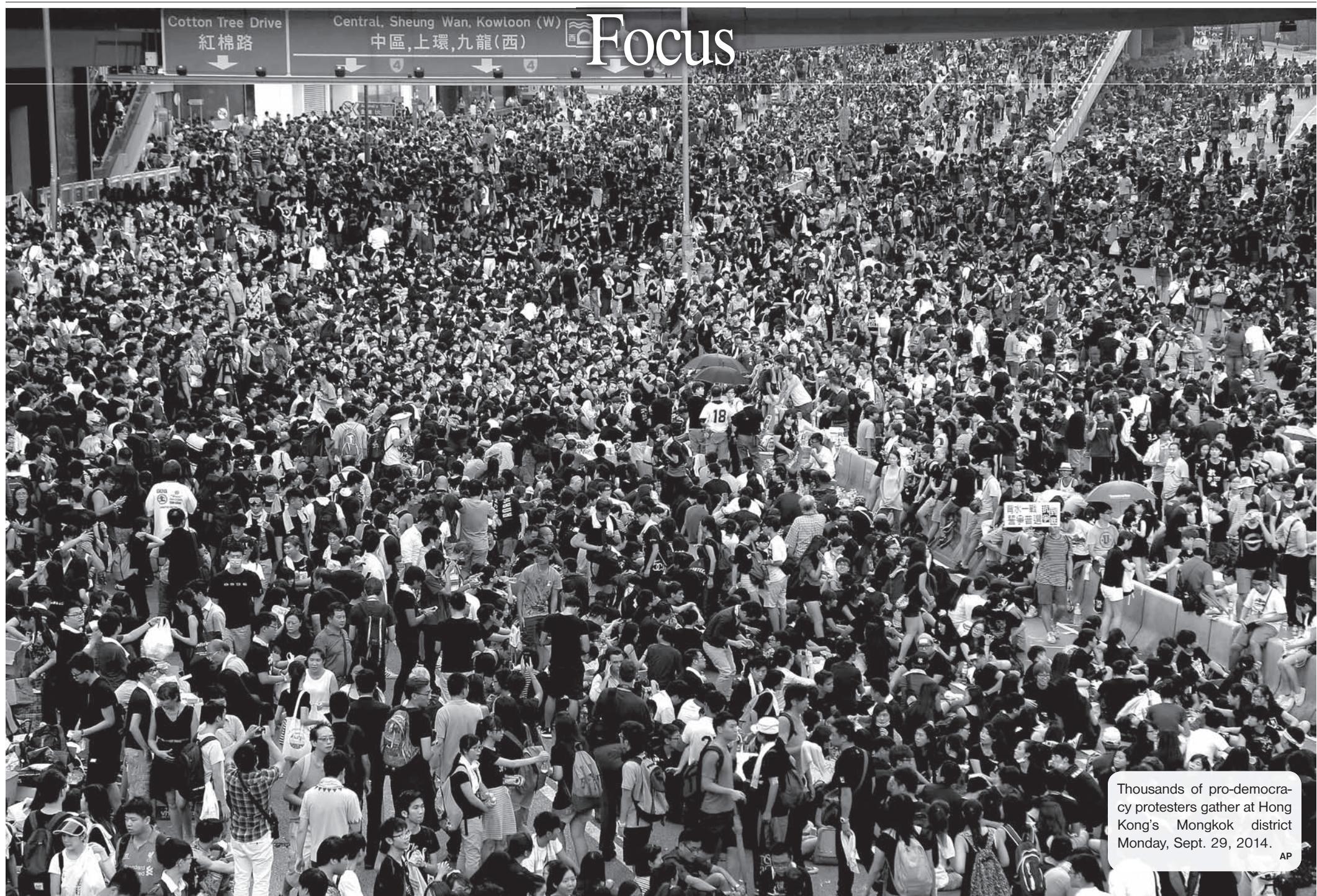
disappeared in what have

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called

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mass extinc-



Thousands of pro-democracy protesters gather at Hong Kong's Mongkok district Monday, Sept. 29, 2014.

AP

China faces tricky balance in Hong Kong's protests

BEIJING (AP)—Pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong have handed China's Communist leadership a thorny political dilemma.

Beijing cannot crack down too harshly on the semi-autonomous territory where a freewheeling media ensures global visibility, but it is determined to end the demonstrations quickly so as not to embolden dissidents, separatists and anti-government protesters elsewhere in China. It has blocked most news and images of the protests from being published on the mainland.

Demonstrators demanding a greater say in choosing the financial center's leader, or chief executive, defied attempts over the weekend by riot police to end their sit-ins with blasts of tear gas and pepper spray, and on Monday fanned out to more neighborhoods of Hong Kong in a tense standoff.

"The Chinese authorities do not want to see it spread to the mainland," said Beijing-based historian and political analyst Zhang Lifan. "It has put tremendous pressure on Beijing, which is most worried about a domino effect."

Beijing's increasingly hard-line leadership, which has clamped down over the past year and a half on dissent and any calls for greater democracy, is highly unlikely to agree to any discussion about political reforms in Hong Kong. Nor does it want bloodshed.

But it will use force—as much as it deems necessary—to ensure stability, Zhang said.

"After all, it believes that politi-

G The economy of Hong Kong has already been so prosperous and the city has been so open and international that the people of Hong Kong have the wisdom to master their political future. Stability without freedom is slavery. It is meaningless.

cal power grows out of the barrel of a gun, instead of elections," he said. "It will return to this simplistic law of the jungle."

An opinion piece that was briefly available on the news site of the nationalistic Chinese newspaper Global Times suggested Beijing send its military police, part of China's armed forces, to help in "suppressing the riots." The editorial was later deleted. In Hong Kong, Beijing-backed Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying denied what he called "rumors" that the Chinese military would intervene.

So far, the situation hasn't reached the point of requiring troops, said Steve Tsang, senior fellow at the University of Nottingham's China Policy Institute. Even the decision by Hong Kong's territorial government over the weekend to use riot police went too far, putting the still-peaceful demonstrations on a dangerous trajectory, Tsang said.

"If the authorities change the tactic, go back to the traditional method

of policing, pull back the riot police and talk to the people, we will have the demonstration back in the defined area," Tsang said.

Beijing will orchestrate the use of force if necessary to break up crowds and keep military deployment only as a last resort, said Willy Lam, an analyst at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"It's possible Hong Kong police have enough muscle so they could use water cannons and other things, perhaps rubber bullets, to disperse the crowds," Lam said.

The protests reflect disillusionment with mainland Chinese rule among Hong Kongers, especially the younger generation, who feel Beijing has failed to keep promises of greater democracy for the territory. Those promises were written into Hong Kong's charter as part of the "one country, two systems" arrangement that Britain negotiated with Beijing when the former colony was returned to China in 1997.

Last month, Beijing rejected a proposal for open nominations of candidates for Hong Kong's first-ever leadership election, promised for 2017. Instead, all candidates must continue to be picked by a panel that is mostly aligned with Beijing.

Residents have "realized Beijing will not change its mind, and they want to send the message that 'we want to hold our future in our hands,'" Lam said.

Any crackdown would play out in front of a relatively free news media in Hong Kong, which under "one country, two systems" has kept its own legal system and many Western-style civil liberties not enjoyed on the mainland.

Chinese state media, on the other hand, have provided little coverage of the Hong Kong protests beyond noting that an illegal gathering spun out of control and was being curtailed by police.

The Chinese government's main official response to the protests was a brief statement condemning their illegal assembly and throwing its support behind the Leung administration's attempts to disperse the crowds.

"We believe the majority of Hong Kong residents will not tolerate a few people's radical, illegal activism at the cost of Hong Kong's rule of law, stability and prosperity," China's liaison office with Hong Kong said in the statement Sunday.

China's main TV broadcaster, CCTV, showed no images from the Hong Kong streets. That contrasted sharply with its detailed coverage of

the protests and tension surrounding the August shooting of an unarmed 18-year-old black man in Ferguson, Missouri, with on-site reporters and studio analysts discussing racism and inequality in American society.

However, an alternate narrative has seeped into the mainland through cell-phone instant messaging services. Users have posted video clips and photos from Hong Kong streets, as well as articles on the unrest sent as photo images—not text—so they can circumvent censorship that involves searching text messages for key phrases.

Discussions were muted on China's Twitter-like Sina Weibo, where Beijing has tightened censorship and intimidated microbloggers from posting politically sensitive materials following a clampdown last year. China also has blocked access to the photo-sharing service Instagram.

Lam said that however the protests unfold, Hong Kong's people have sent a strong signal that "the rule of the game has changed" and they are no longer content only with China's economic prosperity without a say in their future.

In downtown Beijing, economist and frequent government critic Wen Kejian said Hong Kongers should be given a genuine choice.

"The economy of Hong Kong has already been so prosperous and the city has been so open and international that the people of Hong Kong have the wisdom to master their political future," Wen said. "Stability without freedom is slavery. It is meaningless."

Good Housekeeping

Family stays true to spirit of historic district in home design

By LISA BOONE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Liz Denney Sanders and husband Peter Sanders had been looking for a corner-lot house in the Carthay Circle historic district of Los Angeles for more than a year when they saw a For Sale sign go up on their street.

“The day I saw that sign I thought ‘This is meant to be,’” said Denney Sanders, who owns a brand consulting firm. “We knew we were adopting our son, Jack, in May.”

Like many Los Angeles real estate scenarios, this one had the couple in a bidding war with a developer, but they ultimately won the house after writing a note to the family who had lived there for 50 years.

In a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone filled with Spanish Colonial Revival homes, the corner lots stand out for their commanding placement.

“Being on the corner makes you feel like you have more space,” said Sanders, public information director for the Los Angeles Fire Department. “But I wouldn’t call the house grand.”

Indeed, the 1926 Spanish house had not been touched in years and was in desperate need of an update. With the arrival of their son imminent, the couple moved half a block down the street and proceeded to renovate the five-bedroom, four-bath 3,500-square-foot home over the next six months.

Although they took 60 percent of the house down to the studs, for them the remodel was about staying true to the home’s roots—both architecturally and



historically—while bringing it into the 21st century.

“We wanted to preserve the architecture and spirit of the house,” said Denney Sanders.

From the street, the house looks much as it would have in 1926 (a turret, which is now a second-floor office and guest room, was added in the 1960s). But once inside, the updated interiors feel contemporary and stylish while retaining the original home’s warmth and family-friendly feel.

LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT
Classic terracotta tiles fill out the entrance way to the Sanders family’s Spanish Revival home in Los Angeles on August 20, 2014.

Collaborating with interior designer Seyie Putsure of Seyie Design, Denney Sanders furnished the home with earth tones and added whimsical details such as animal prints and dramatic wallcoverings for personality. The look is elegant but



here; traditional windows and French doors allow easy access to the outdoors.

Perhaps the most stunning transformation is Denney Sanders’ office in a detached guest suite alongside the house.

Despite contractor Stephen Bohrer’s skepticism, Denney Sanders chose to paint the library a glossy chocolate brown that now shimmers in the sunlight. “He thought I was nuts,” Denney Sanders said with a laugh. A simple slipcovered sofa from Crate & Barrel hints that a family lives

views to the outdoors. Here she can meet with clients privately while enjoying access to Jack, 16 months, in the house nearby.

This sense of family is in large part what the couple have found so compelling about their neighborhood and their new home there. Sanders, who played soccer in a nearby park as a kid, can now walk there with Jack.

They have managed to preserve deep ties to the past while creating a new home that feels fresh and modern.

“We love the neighborhood,” said Sanders. “It’s like living in a quiet oasis here.”

THIS IS A HAMMER

Why weather stripping?

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: What’s the point of adding weather stripping around doors and windows? Today’s homes are pretty well built already.—Jake in Denver

A: It’s true that good quality, sturdy doors and windows are available these days, but not all homes have them installed: Maybe the builder went with cheaper materials or the home is just older. And even when a house has double-paned windows and solid doors, continuing changes in the building, such as expansion and contraction, the foundation settling and so on, can create small gaps between the frame and the walls, or slightly misalign the door frame.

Types of weather stripping vary: You can choose easy-to-install foam strips that have a glue backing, or more permanent, tight-fitting metal strips that provide an effective

cushion between windows and their frames while allowing the windows to open and close normally.

Either one works well, particularly for windows, and is a far better option than covering windows with plastic.

Along with weather stripping, you can take some practical and cost-effective measures against drafts. Check the corners of the window and doorframes for cracks through which air can enter, and seal with caulk or putty. Put up heavy curtains to lessen the effects of window drafts. A door snake can keep drafts from blowing in under your door.

HOME TIP: To make sure a room is being heated efficiently, shift furniture so that it doesn’t block furnace vents.

Send your questions or home tips to ask@thisisahammer.com.

COMFORT FOOD

Creamy ‘Cookie’ Fruit Dessert

When you find a delicious dessert that also happens to be healthy—well, what more could you ask for?

1 cup nonfat dry milk powder
1 1/2 cups water
2 tablespoons white distilled vinegar
1 (4-serving) package sugar-free instant vanilla pudding mix
1 (8-ounce) can crushed pineapple, packed in fruit juice, un-drained
1 cup reduced-calorie whipped topping

1 (11-ounce) can mandarin oranges, rinsed and drained
1 cup diced banana
9 (2 1/2-inch) chocolate graham crackers

1. In a large bowl, combine dry milk powder, water and vinegar. Let set 5 minutes.

2. Add dry pudding mix and undrained pineapple. Mix well, using a wire whisk. Blend in whipped topping. Add mandarin oranges and banana. Mix gently to combine. Coarsely crush 6 graham

crackers. Fold crushed graham crackers into pudding mixture.

3. Evenly spoon mixture into 6 dessert dishes. Crush remaining 3 graham crackers into fine crumbs. Sprinkle about 1 teaspoon crumbs over top of each. Refrigerate for at least 10 minutes. Makes 6 servings.

■ Each serving equals: 168 calories, 0 g fat, 6 g protein, 36 g carb., 238 mg sodium, 1 g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Fruit, 1/2 Fat-Free Milk, 1/2 Starch. (*Healthy Exchanges/King Features Synd., Inc.*)

Life & Style

Study: Recessions can postpone motherhood forever

NEW YORK (AP)—When the economy tanks, women have fewer babies. But what happens in the following years, when conditions improve?

A massive new study suggests that for some U.S. women, living through a recession can mean they will never have children.

In fact, the authors project that among women who were in their early 20s in 2008—early in the so-called “Great Recession”—about 151,000 will forgo having any children as a result, at least by age 40.

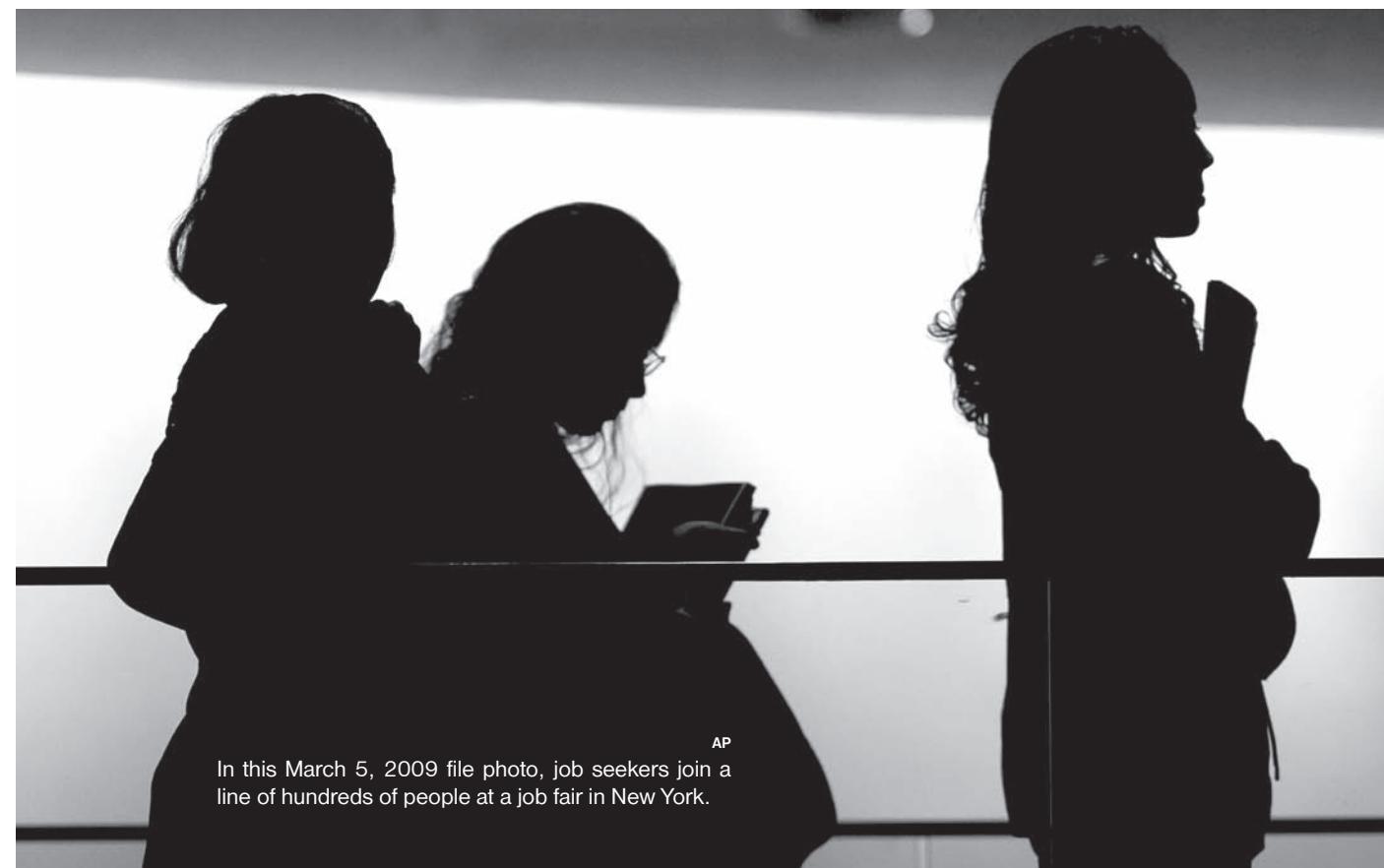
Overall, the lingering impact of that recession may ultimately mean some 427,000 fewer children being born over the course of a couple decades, the authors say.

On a societal level these effects are small. The projected number of childless women is a tiny fraction of the 9 million women in that age group, 20-24. The drop-off in births isn't much for a nation that produces around 4 million babies a year.

But the results still show “a pretty profound effect on some women's lives,” said study author Janet Currie, a health economist at Princeton University.

Currie and colleague Hannes Schwandt present their analysis in a paper released Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

Past studies have generally shown women cut back on having babies when unemployment rises. In fact, tough economic



In this March 5, 2009 file photo, job seekers join a line of hundreds of people at a job fair in New York.

conditions including the Great Recession are blamed for a five-year drop in the number of babies born in the U.S., starting in 2007. The idea is that during such times, many couples feel they can't afford to start or add to a family. The births decline ended with a slight increase last year.

To look for an effect from the economy, researchers compared the timing of when babies were conceived to unemployment levels at that time. Only conceptions that led to live births could be tracked.

They looked for evidence that women who defer having children during tough times make up for it later on, ending up with the same number they would have had otherwise.

“We were just trying to mea-

sure how much catch-up there was,” Currie said in a telephone interview. When the research showed a shortfall for women who experience those tough times at ages 20 to 24, “we were surprised.”

Currie said many women at

that age are at a crossroads in deciding whether to get married and have children. Poor economic times may discourage many women from doing so, and once the economy improves and the women have gotten older, they may be less likely to go

ahead, she speculated.

Other studies show that men who take a first job during a recession often get locked into lower earnings for the rest of their lives, so maybe those potential mates become less attractive to women, Currie said.

No long-term effect on childbearing appeared for women of other ages.

Dan Black, an economic demographer at the University of Chicago who had no role in the new study, said the finding of an effect on childlessness makes sense to him.

If a recession derails a woman's plans to have children in her early 20s, the prospect may become less appealing later because of things like career considerations or a breakup with her romantic partner, he said.

“Things happen in life. Life can evolve in very complicated ways,” he said.

John Casterline, an Ohio State University professor who studies childbearing patterns, said the long-term effect of the Great Recession on births is small but still remarkable.

“The train leaves the station. If you're not on it, you've missed your chance,” he said. “This is a pretty amazing result.”

Amanda Bynes arrested for DUI in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former actress Amanda Bynes was arrested early Sunday morning on suspicion of driving while under the influence of a drug, authorities said Monday.

Bynes, 28, was stopped by a California Highway Patrol officer after she stopped in the middle of an intersection in the Sherman Oaks neighborhood of Los Angeles around 4 a.m. on Sunday. The former child star was determined to be under the influence of an unidentified drug after being evaluated at a nearby police station, the CHP said in a statement.

The release states that Bynes, who has had a series of driving-related arrests, was cooperative but appeared disheveled when she was taken into custody.

Bynes was released hours later after posting \$15,000 bail. A phone message left for her criminal defense attorney, Richard Hutton, was not immediately returned.

The one-time actress remains on probation for a 2012 case filed after she clipped a Los Angeles County sheriff's patrol car and was arrested for driving under the influence. Bynes pleaded no contest to alcohol-related



In this June 5, 2011 file photo, Amanda Bynes arrives at the MTV Movie Awards in Los Angeles.

reckless driving in February.

In June, a New York judge dismissed a criminal case filed after Bynes was accused of throwing a bong out of her 36th-floor apartment. The case was dismissed after Bynes complied with orders to receive counseling and stay out of trouble.

Last year, Bynes resolved a misdemeanor hit-and-run case in Los Angeles after entering a civil settlement with other drivers.

She received psychiatric treatment last year after authori-

ties said she set a small fire in the driveway of a home in Thousand Oaks, California.

Bynes was 13 when she landed her own hit variety program, “The Amanda Show” on Nickelodeon. She went on to star in the TV series “What I Like About You” and several movies, including “What a Girl Wants,” “Hairspray” and “She's the Man.”

She has publicly stated that she has retired from acting. Her last film credit was 2010's “Easy A,” which starred Emma Stone.

First Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

†Pedro Cogure Arriola

Lovingly known as “Pete”

April 23, 1954-October 2, 2013

We, the family of the late
†Pedro Cogure Arriola
humbly invite all our
relatives, friends and his
classmates of '73 to join us in
prayers as we commemorate
the first year anniversary of
our beloved unto eternal life.

Mass of Intention is being celebrated at Kristo Rai Church
beginning Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 6:00am.
On the final day, Thursday, October 2, 2014, mass will be
offered at 6:00am. Reception will follow immediately
at the Kristo Rai Social Hall.

Your prayers, thoughts and
presence are greatly appreciated.

Thank You, Un Dangkulo na
Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Maraming Salamat Po

Luzviminda F. Arriola, Children and Families

They did. They do. Clooney/Alamuddin wedding No. 2



George Clooney, flanked by his wife Amal Alamuddin, arrives at the city hall for their civil marriage ceremony in Venice, Italy, Monday, Sept. 29, 2014. AP

VENICE, Italy (AP)—The romantic canaled city of Venice has been the venue for 323 weddings of foreign couples this year. Only one has drawn crowds and paparazzi.

George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin said “I do” for a second time Monday, celebrating

ing a civil wedding ceremony in Venice’s City Hall on the Grand Canal, greeted by hundreds of well-wishers who waited hours for a glimpse of the newlyweds.

The couple tied the knot two days earlier in a private ceremony attended by Hollywood celebrity friends and family in a

luxury hotel. They followed up with a required civil procedure, which to be legally recognized must take place on a site designated by the city administration.

The newlyweds arrived at the pre-Renaissance Ca’ Farsetti in Clooney’s regular water taxi, called “Amore,” trailed by

dozens of boats with photographers, as has been the case all weekend. Police boats tried to clear their way.

Clooney, 53, looked dapper in a gray suit and matching tie, while the bride, 36, wore a cream-colored, short-sleeved jacket with palazzo pants and a

Wal-Mart: Morgan wasn’t wearing seatbelt in crash

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan and other people in a limousine struck from behind by a Wal-Mart truck on a highway in June are at least partly to blame for their injuries because they weren’t wearing seatbelts, the company said in a court filing Monday.

The filing was made in federal court in response to a lawsuit Morgan filed in July over the accident, which killed his friend James McNair, who was accompanying the former “Saturday Night Live” and “30 Rock” star back from a show in Delaware. Morgan spent several weeks in rehab with rib and leg injuries.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., based in Bentonville, Arkansas, said in the filing that the passengers’ injuries were caused “in whole or in part” by their “failure to

properly wear an appropriate available seatbelt restraint device,” which it said constitutes unreasonable conduct.

An attorney representing Morgan and the other plaintiffs called Wal-Mart’s contentions “surprising and appalling.”

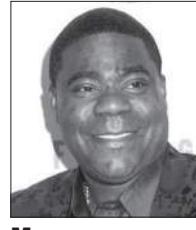
“It’s disingenuous,” attorney Benedict Morelli said. “It’s not what they said they were going to do initially, which was take full responsibility. I’m very upset, not for myself but for the families I represent.”

The lawsuit seeks a jury trial and punitive and compensatory damages. It says the retail giant should have known that its truck driver had been awake for more than 24 hours before the crash

and that his commute of 700 miles from his home in Georgia to work in Delaware was “unreasonable.” It also alleges the driver fell asleep at the wheel.

Wal-Mart spokeswoman Brooke Buchanan said in an email that the company “continues to stand willing to work with Mr. Morgan and the other plaintiffs to resolve this matter.”

Passengers Ardley Fuqua and Jeffrey Millea and Millea’s wife, Krista Millea, also are named as plaintiffs in the lawsuit. Krista Millea was not in the limousine when the crash occurred but is a plaintiff because she has a related loss-of-services lawsuit stemming from the crash.



Morgan

Truck driver Kevin Roper, of Jonesboro, Georgia, pleaded not guilty to death by auto and assault by auto charges in state court. A criminal complaint also accuses him of not sleeping for more than 24 hours before the crash, a violation of New Jersey law.

A report by federal transportation safety investigators said Roper was driving 65 mph in the minute before he slammed into the limo van. The speed limit on that stretch of the New Jersey Turnpike is 55 mph and was lowered to 45 mph that night because of construction.

Roper had been on the job about 13 1/2 hours at the time of the crash, the report concluded. Federal rules permit truck drivers to work up to 14 hours a day, with a maximum of 11 hours behind the wheel.

‘Sleepy Hollow’ hopes to engage fans in season 2

NEW YORK (AP)—“Sleepy Hollow” was renewed after just three episodes last year, and star Tom Mison, who plays Ichabod Crane, calls the new season “the tricky second album.”

“Last season people were ... expecting us to be terrible,” Mison says of the Fox mythical drama, which airs Monday nights (9 p.m. EDT). “Let’s be honest ... (the show’s premise is) quite a bold idea. Last season: low expectations. This season: high.”

Set in modern day, Crane awakens after being killed in the

Revolutionary War. He must adjust to the new time period, battle the headless horseman and prevent the apocalypse with the help of police Lt. Abbie Mills (Nicole Beharie). He’s also trying to reunite with his wife, Katrina.

Beharie says “Sleepy Hollow” will be more character-driven this season.

“This year it’s a lot more personal, and there are a lot of questions about (whether Ichabod and Abbie) can remain loyal to one another and to their cause,” she says.

Some fans are rooting for a romantic link to develop between Ichabod and Abbie. “He’s a guy, I’m a girl, and they’re like, ‘There should be kissing involved,’” Beharie said with a laugh. “I didn’t see that happening. Not at all. ... That happens in some shows, but they’re sort of focused on saving the world and the apocalypse, so I don’t see Abbie wanting to fight over the same romantic guy in any way.”

Various “Sleepy Hollow”-themed books are in the works. The first, “The Secret

Journal of Ichabod Crane,” is now in stores.

Beharie would like a pop-up themed episode, where various behind-the-scenes facts about filming appear on the screen during different scenes.

“Sleepy Hollow” is filmed in Wilmington, North Carolina, which Mison says can be “very close to unbearable” when the weather is very humid.

“The noises that I make when the wig comes off and that coat comes off,” he joked. “I’ve never experienced joy like it.”

matching wide-brimmed hat accented by a navy ribbon.

As they exited the boat, Clooney drew his wife’s attention to the crowds on the opposite shore, and they stopped briefly to take in the scene and wave. Clooney then ushered Alamuddin inside, looking up at city employees watching from the surrounding buildings and pointing inside with his thumb as if to say, “I gotta go.”

They emerged about 20 minutes later with former Rome Mayor Walter Veltroni, who performed both ceremonies. Veltroni sent the couple off, hugging Clooney and kissing Alamuddin on the cheek.

They continued up the Grand Canal and under the arched Rialto Bridge, crowded with more well-wishers screaming “George, George,” before disappearing up a one-way canal. Clooney’s water taxi driver, who has ferried the actor around on his frequent trips to Venice, was later seen at the airport and indicated that the couple had left.

One of the world’s most romantic cities, Venice draws couples from around the world for a fairy tale wedding in well-appointed official wedding halls

overlooking the Grand Hotel. According to official statistics for this year, 323 non-Italian couples were married in Venice’s historic center through Monday.

A city employee, who identified herself only as Luisa, said she leaves her window overlooking the Cavalli Palazzo, where most ceremonies take place, open in the summer just so she can hear the parade of newlyweds being congratulated by loved ones.

“There are so many beautiful brides. Every 10 or 15 minutes, they come out and people throw confetti or rose petals,” Luisa said, standing with a group of co-workers who came outside to see Clooney and his bride arrive. “Once there was even a Scotsman in a kilt. Often we find champagne bottles and glasses here in the morning.”

The last couple to exchange vows before the Hollywood star and his new bride arrived was Stefanie Eddinger and Gerald Frieder, from Vienna. The couple enjoyed the added energy from the crowd outside awaiting the celebrity newlyweds.

“They picked our day,” Frieder said, before stepping outside into a shower of confetti.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Mary Louise-Parker writing memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Mary Louise Parker, the award-winning star of “Weeds,” is writing a book about the “significant men in her life.” The book is called “Dear Mr. You,” and Scribner announced Monday that it is scheduled for next fall. The 50-year-old Parker will tell her story through a series of letters. Her boyfriends have included actors Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Billy Crudup and singer Charlie Mars. Parker has starred in the films “Grand Canyon” and “Fried Green Tomatoes” and in a Broadway production of “Proof,” for which she won a Tony. In 2006, she won a Golden Globe for best actress for her work in “Weeds,” the Showtime series.

Nathan Lane picture book out next fall

NEW YORK (AP)—Nathan Lane’s first book is no shaggy dog story. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers announced Monday that the Broadway actor known for his starring role in “The Producers” has a deal for a picture book, “Naughty Mabel.” Scheduled for next fall, the book was co-written by Lane and his partner, Devlin Elliott. It will be illustrated by Dan Krall. In a statement issued through his publisher, Lane said he and Elliott were inspired by their overindulged, well-groomed French bulldog, known to her owners as “the queen of the Hamptons.” The book is the first of a planned series about Mabel’s misadventures.

For sale in Belarus: Art from Yanukovych’s home?

MINSK, Belarus (AP)—The Belarusian KGB says it has arrested several art dealers who were trying to sell what they claimed were five paintings taken from the former residence of Ukraine’s disgraced former president, Viktor Yanukovych. KGB spokesman Artur Strekh told The Associated Press on Monday that the dealers were asking 2 million euros for paintings described as the work of Monet, van Gogh, Kandinsky, Munch and Russian artist Konstantin Yuon. But the art experts have not yet determined whether the paintings are authentic or whether they belonged to Yanukovych, who fled Ukraine in February after months of street protests. Ukrainians who later toured his estate outside Kiev were stunned by the opulence. The KGB spokesman said a search of the detained art dealers’ residence turned up more than 100 icons and paintings.

Football commands highest TV ad prices

NEW YORK (AP)—Pro football pays the bills in prime-time television. NBC’s “Sunday Night Football” charges \$627,300 for a 30-second advertisement, more than any other program in prime-time broadcast television, according to a survey by Advertising Age. On its heels is CBS’ new Thursday night football telecast, being shown this fall for the first time, at \$483,333. Television’s top-rated comedy, “The Big Bang Theory,” is the scripted show with the priciest ads, at \$344,827, Advertising Age said. Otherwise, ad prices don’t always mesh with the Nielsen company’s measurements of which programs get the biggest audience. That’s because advertisers pay a premium to reach a younger audience.

Mexican's 'Harry Potter' hoard is world's biggest

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A Mexico City man is in Hogwarts heaven after his collection of "Harry Potter" memorabilia was named the world's largest.

Menahem Asher Silva Vargas has spent nearly 15 years hoarding all things related to British author J.K. Rowling's young-adult wizard-fantasy series, which spawned eight blockbuster films.

His collection fills two rooms and counts everything from magic wands and toy figurines to Gryffindor scarves and replica Quidditch brooms.

Guinness World Records officially recognized it Monday as the world No. 1, at 3,097 pieces. The old mark was 807.

Silva Vargas said he began with no intent to amass a huge collection. But soon it was like being under a spell.

He laughingly called his obsession both a blessing and a curse: "My salary, my bonuses ... it all ended up here."



Johanna Hessling of Guinness World Records, right, presents Menahem Asher Silva Vargas, a 37 year old lawyer, with a certificate recognizing him as the title holder for the largest collection of Harry Potter memorabilia, at his home in Mexico City, Monday, Sept. 29, 2014.

Debut fiction writer wins \$25,000 Bingham Prize

NEW YORK (AP)—The author of the story collection "Godforsaken Idaho" has won a \$25,000 prize.

Shawn Vestal is the winner of the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for debut fiction. He was to receive the award Monday at a New York ceremony organized by the PEN American Center, the literary and human rights organization.

Scheduled to present the Bingham Prize was Louise Erdrich, who recently won the

PEN/Saul Bellow Award for lifetime achievement.

PEN judges in their citation praised Vestal for his blend of genres from fantasy to historical fiction and his ability to bring new energy to "the well-trodden arena of the hapless male."

Vestal is an Idaho native and a columnist for The Spokesman-Review in Spokane, Washington state. He also has written a short memoir, "A.K.A. Charles Abbott."

Van Gogh still life coming to auction in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—A bouquet of wildflowers painted by Vincent van Gogh weeks before his death is going on the auction block in New York City.

Sotheby's says "Still Life, Vase With Daisies and Poppies" could sell for \$30 million to \$50 million on Nov. 4.

Van Gogh painted it at the home of his physician, Dr. Paul Gachet, in 1890. It's one of the

few works he sold during his lifetime.

One of the founders of the Museum of Modern Art, A. Conger Goodyear, acquired it in 1928. It remained in the family for decades.

It was on permanent exhibition at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo for 30 years. The current owner purchased it around 1990.



This undated photo provided by Sotheby's shows Vincent van Gogh's "Still Life, Vase With Daisies and Poppies," which could sell for \$30 million to \$50 million when it is auctioned by Sotheby's in New York on Nov. 4, 2014. Van Gogh painted it weeks before his death at the home of his physician, Dr. Paul Gachet, in 1890. It's one of the few works he sold during his lifetime.

Nicole Kidman reveals heartbreak at father's death



In this Jan. 8, 2005 file photo, psychologist Anthony Kidman, left, and his daughter, actress Nicole Kidman, arrive to the Palm Springs International Film Festival in Palm Springs, Calif. Authorities say Tony Kidman died Friday, Sept. 12, 2014, in Singapore.

SYDNEY (AP)—Actress Nicole Kidman on Tuesday broke her public silence since the death of her father more than two weeks ago by sharing her heartbreak and thanking well-wishers for their comforting thoughts and prayers.

"We would just like to thank everyone for their love and prayers over these past couple of weeks," Kidman and her singer husband Keith Urban said in a joint statement posted on their Facebook pages.

"We are all heartbroken, but knowing we are in the hearts and thoughts of others is so comforting," they added.

They signed off: "Sending love, Nic and Keith xx."

The Australian star of this year's "Grace of Monaco" returned to her home of Sydney after her psychologist father Tony Kidman died during a vacation in Singapore on Sept. 12.

The 75-year-old was in Singapore to visit his other daughter, Antonia, and her family.

Authorities did not reveal the cause of this death.

Truck driver spreading herpes is out of ex-wife's control

DEAR ABBY: Last year I found a bottle of Valtrex in my husband's car. He had been taking the medicine for months.

When I asked him about it, he lied. I was devastated when I realized I had been exposed to herpes. He actually tried to say he got it from me, but later he admitted that he had been stepping out with random women while working out of town. (He's a truck driver.) I had a blood test and thankfully I didn't catch it.

What is the doctor's responsibility in informing the spouse? I'm sure my ex is going to sleep around and infect others. We are divorced now, so I'm free of his lying and cheating, but I am fearful for others. He's so lowdown that he will spread it to other women and not care. Should I be concerned, or should I just leave it alone since he's not my problem anymore?

HEARTBROKEN IN ALABAMA

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Unless your husband gave his physician permission to reveal his medical status to you, the doctor was bound by HIPAA regulations, and by law could not warn you that your husband had an STD. (Yes, I agree this aspect of the law is disgusting.)

Much as you might wish to, there's nothing you can do to

control your former spouse's behavior. My doctor tells me that herpes is most contagious during an outbreak. The risk is far less when the person is not shedding the virus. Valtrex further decreases the chances of spreading it, although it's still possible.

If the result of the blood test you were given was negative, then you have never been exposed. However, if you have any symptoms, such as itching or swollen lymph nodes in your groin, you should let your OB/GYN know right away.

DEAR ABBY: My 57-year-old sister has had many career problems. She's well-educated, personable, professional and punctual, but she quits or is let go from one job after another within weeks because "it wasn't a good fit." She seems to be holding out for what she had 25 years ago—a well-paying position supervising clerks. But jobs like that don't exist anymore.

She's excellent at working with small children and the elderly and has significant experience doing so, but she believes such jobs are "beneath" her. I'm her only close relative, and I'm afraid she'll eventually turn to me for financial support—something my husband and I cannot afford to provide. What can I do or say to make her realize that a STEADY JOB is what she really needs for the next 10 years?

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



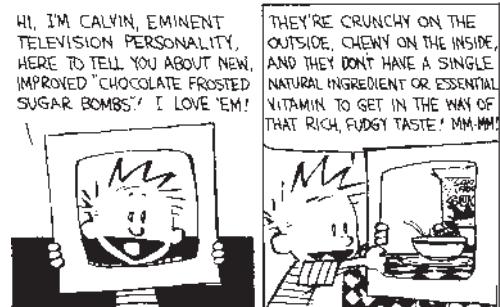
SENSIBLE SIB IN ARIZONA

DEAR SENSIBLE SIB: Tell your sister exactly what you have written to me: "Sis, what you need is a steady job for the next 10 years, because if you're counting on support from me, I'm telling you now my husband and I can't afford to give it to you." It's short, sweet, and it may be the wake-up call she needs before it's too late.

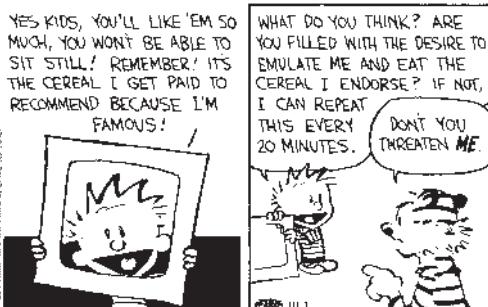
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Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Tuesday, October 14th, 2014. PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.

Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Gaming Cage Worker (1)

Position Summary: Conduct financial transactions for patrons and guests. Follow all cash desk regulations. Participate in the soft count as required. Ensure that the cash desk float balances during and at the end of shift; reconcile daily summaries of transactions to balance books. Maintain cage security. Maintain confidentiality of customers' transactions. Use cash register or computer to record transactions.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience as a gaming cage worker or work experience at a gaming establishment cash desk operations or any combination of experience, education and/or training where financial transactions for patrons/guest skills are demonstrated or willing to undergo in-house training. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Surveillance Operator (1)

Position Summary: Responsible for video observation of all aspects of the e-gaming/digital lounge operation and the reporting of all irregular or illegal activities.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 3 years work experience

as a surveillance operator or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all casino/e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form, Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Human Resources Officer (1)

Position Summary: Responsible for planning, development, and implementation of all HR policies, procedures, standards, systems and program; provide supervision and direction as well as coordinate all activities of the Human Resources Office to ensure that all established goals are achieved; Manages and administers a specialized corporate-wide human resource activity such as recruitment, selection and retention, employee relations, compensation, training and development, organizational development, classification, training or benefits and occupational safety. Responsible for major program administration, policy and procedure formulation and implementation involving in-depth communication and analysis.

Position Requirement: Degree or diploma in human resources management, business administration, public administration or equivalent plus 3 years generalist human resources experience or professional level. Experience in human resources with at least three years supervisory experience or any equivalent combination of experience, education and/or training where personnel skills and managing people are demonstrated; knowledge of the principles and practices of HR management; knowledge of business principles; knowledge of HR relevant legislation and regulations; knowledge of relevant software; knowledge and experience in strategic planning, workforce planning, performance management and HR alignment; must be knowledgeable to prepare and process foreign workers work permit such as CW1, H1, J1 and other applicable visas; highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills; computer literate.

Interested applicants may submit their resume by email to: hr@clubsaipan.com. Background check maybe required before employment. Deadline for submission is on October 15, 2014 at 5:00PM.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Charles sends Chiefs to 41-14 rout of Patriots



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—It made sense that Andy Reid spoke in baseball metaphors after

Kansas City whipped the New England Patriots on Monday night, with the Royals poised to end a long playoff drought just across the parking lot from Arrowhead Stadium.

He may have stretched things a bit when it came to Jamaal Charles, though.

“It’s a heck of a thing to bring 25 off the bench as a relief pitcher,” Reid said. “That’s a pretty good player. To add him back to the mix is something.”

Relief pitcher? How about staff ace.

Charles returned from an ankle injury to score three touchdowns, Tom Brady was picked off twice by the opportunistic Chiefs, and Kansas City routed New England 41-14 to hand Bill Belichick one of his worst losses as coach of the Patriots.

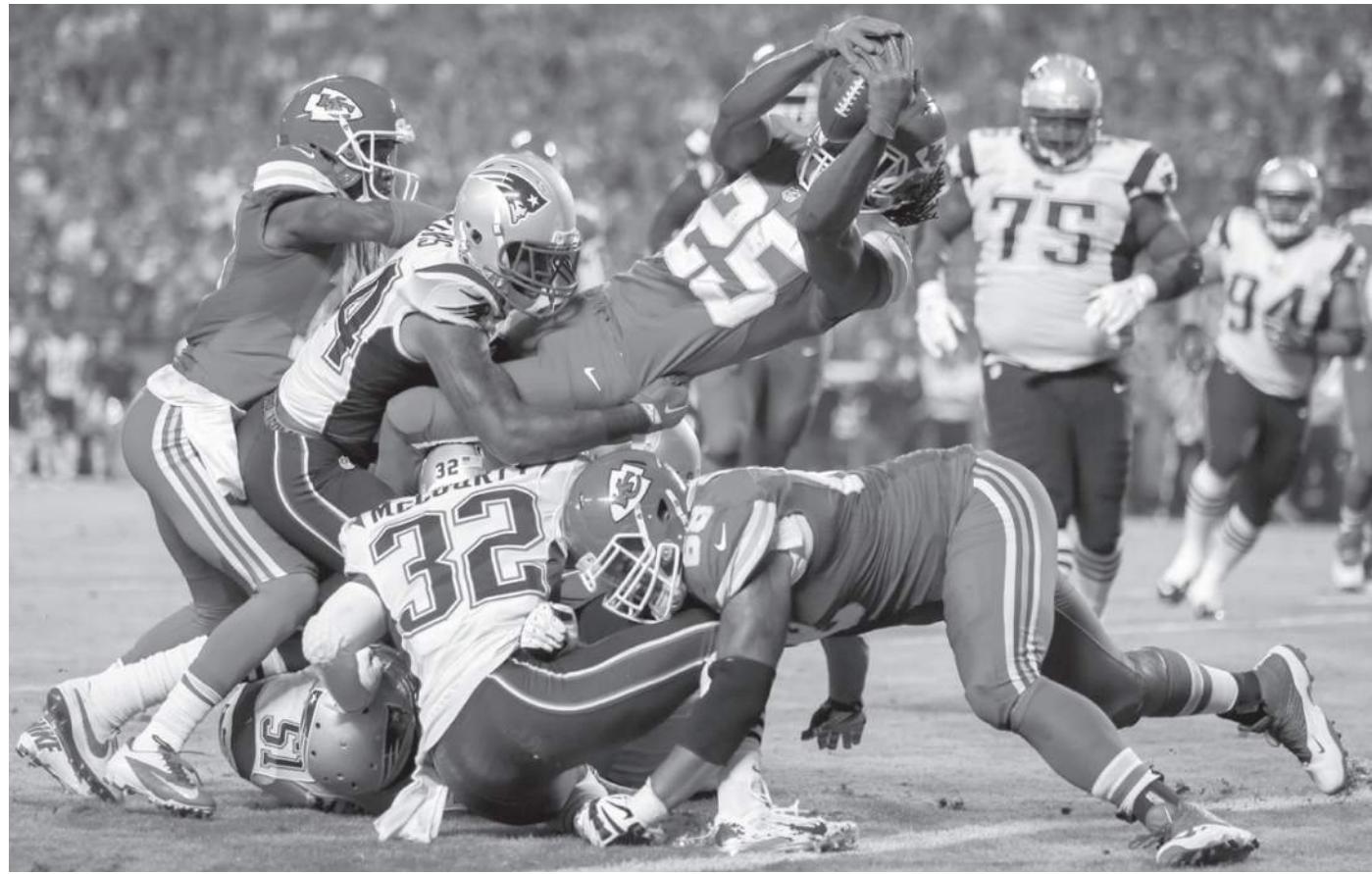
Charles, who missed last week’s win in Miami with a sprained ankle, ran for 92 yards and a score. The Pro Bowl running back also caught two short touchdown passes from Alex Smith, who had 248 yards passing and three touchdowns in a sharp performance before a ravenous crowd.

“Coach said he was going to look for me, and see how it feels during the game,” Charles said, “and I guess I started feeling like myself. He didn’t want to take me out.”

The Chiefs (2-2) ended a four-game skid at Arrowhead Stadium dating to last season by making things miserable on Brady, who had one of his two picks returned for a touchdown.

Brady also was strip-sacked and finished 14 of 23 for 159 yards and a touchdown.

“It was just a bad performance by everybody,” Brady said. “We need to make sure we



AP

Kansas City Chiefs running back Jamaal Charles (25) dives into the end zone after catching a 5-yard pass for a touchdown during the second quarter of an NFL football game against the New England Patriots, Monday, Sept. 29, 2014, in Kansas City, Mo.

never have this feeling again. We’ve got to figure out what we have to do better.”

With the game out of hand, the Patriots gave rookie quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo a chance to play. He threw a late touchdown pass to Rob Gronkowski to complete the scoring.

“Just wanted to play everybody,” Belichick said.

The Chiefs forced the Patriots to air it out by stuffing Shane Vereen and Stevan Ridley. And when Brady dropped back, their front seven ran roughshod over New England’s suspect offensive line.

It hardly helped the Patriots’ offense that it was trying to operate on the same night Chiefs fans were trying to reclaim the record for loudest outdoor sports venue. The record was set in the first half, when Guinness

World Records noted a noise level of 142.2 decibels - breaking the mark of 137.6 that the Seattle Seahawks’ fans had set last season.

“My ears are still ringing,” Reid said with a smile.

The crowd included several members of the Royals, who made the walk across the parking lot from Kauffman Stadium to watch the start of the game on the sidelines. The Royals will play their first postseason game since 1985 against the Oakland Athletics on Tuesday night.

Knile Davis added 107 yards rushing for Kansas City, forming a potent one-two punch with Charles in the backfield. Tight end Travis Kelce had eight catches for 93 yards and a score.

“Some nights things come together,” Smith said. “Guys execute and you take advantage.”

Charles was executing right from the start, giving the Chiefs a lead with his first-quarter touchdown plunge. He then extended the lead with a 5-yard TD catch in the second quarter.

Cairo Santos added a 22-yard field goal just before halftime for a 17-0 lead.

The field goal came after the Chiefs were bailed out by a defensive penalty. They had been stopped short on a pass play with 8 seconds left, but the penalty gave them a second chance.

Kansas City had 303 yards of first-half offense, the most against any Belichick-coached team.

Charles added his third touchdown of the game early in the second half, taking a short pass in the flat and stumbling into the end zone. He appeared to grab his hamstring on the way down

and was met by trainers as he exited the field. After a brief trip to the locker room, Charles logged a few more carries before his night was done.

By that point, the game was pretty much done, too.

Brady threw a 44-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter to Brandon LaFell, who slipped the grasp of cornerback Marcus Cooper to reach the end zone. But he was picked off by Husain Abdullah later in the half, and Abdullah returned the interception 39 yards for a touchdown.

Abdullah was flagged afterward for unsportsmanlike conduct, but the devout Muslim said it had nothing to do with dropping to his knees in prayer. He said the penalty came because he slid to his knees. The lesson learned? “Stop before you drop,” Abdullah said.

Raiders fire coach Dennis Allen

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—The Oakland Raiders fired coach Dennis Allen on Monday night four games into his third season.

The decision was announced soon after the Raiders (0-4) returned from London, where they lost their 10th straight game dating to last season, 34-14 to the Miami Dolphins on Sunday. The firing was first reported by Fox Sports.

Allen was the first head coach hired by Oakland after the death of longtime owner Al Davis. His 8-28 record is the worst for the franchise since before Davis arrived in 1963. His contract was set to run through next season.

An announcement on the interim coach will come Tuesday, with offensive line coach Tony Sparano and offensive coordinator Greg Olson the most likely options.

Allen is the third coach fired during the season by Oakland since Davis arrived. Mike Shanahan was fired after four games in 1989 and Lane Kiffin was let go four games into the 2008 season.

The Raiders have had 11 straight seasons without a winning record or a playoff berth. Oakland will now have its eighth coach since 2003.

Allen and general manager Reggie McKenzie were hired after the team finished 8-8 under coach Hue Jackson in 2011, falling one game short of a playoff bid.

They were expected to steady a franchise that ran into disrepair during Davis’ final years as owner. Instead, the team has only gotten worse.

The two were hamstrung their first two seasons by a lack of premium draft picks and a difficult salary-cap situation due to bad contracts handed out by Davis.

But after spending their first two years tearing down the team, owner Mark Davis expected the Raiders to be much more competitive this season after having ample salary cap room in the off-season and a near full complement of draft picks.

Instead, the Raiders have looked overmatched at times. They fell behind 27-0 after three quarters of their only home game against Houston and trailed by 31 points after three quarters against the Dolphins.

Clippers return focus to team post-Sterling



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Doc Rivers loves nothing more than talking basketball. And with the scandal involving former Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling beginning to fade into the background, Rivers welcomes returning the focus squarely to the team and its performance.

“We’re going to talk about basketball and that’s very nice,” he said Monday. “Last season during the playoffs there were very few questions about basketball.”

The courtroom drama over the team’s ownership subsided earlier this summer, with Sterling ousted after 33 years after being banned for life by the NBA for racist remarks, and Steve Ballmer plunking down a record \$2 billion to buy the

franchise.

“It’s been a long summer,” guard Chris Paul said. “A lot of interesting things happened.”

Fellow All-Star Blake Griffin added, “All the new changes have been positive and given us new life.”

Already different is Rivers’ burgeoning relationship with ownership. He almost never spoke to Sterling. In contrast, he chats frequently by phone with Ballmer, the former Microsoft CEO who lives in Seattle.

“It’s been really good,” Rivers said. “He’s given me a lot of room. He’s allowed us to do basically anything we wanted within reason.”

Rivers hired three new assistants: former NBA head coaches Mike Woodson and Lawrence Frank, and 15-year league veteran Sam Cassell.

Ballmer’s first big move, giving Rivers a five-year contract

extension through the 2018-19 season, was a hit with the players.

“It’s stability moving forward,” Griffin said. “It shows he’s committed to making the right moves to try to win a championship. That was a very smart move on his part.”

Ballmer made a quick first impression on 7-footer DeAndre Jordan.

“The first time I met him he bought me dinner, so I liked him a lot,” he joked.

The Clippers open training camp in Las Vegas on Tuesday knowing more of what to expect from Rivers’ system than they did a year ago when he was new.

“It’ll be a more productive training camp,” said Paul, who enters his fourth season together with Griffin and Jordan, the team’s Big Three who set the tone on and off the court. “Doc talked to us about let’s not have any bad days.”

The Clippers had the best record in franchise history at 57-25 and won a second straight Pacific Division title last season.

But they again failed to get past the second round of the playoffs, losing to Oklahoma City as the Sterling controversy exploded near the start of the playoffs.

Rivers credited his team for not using it as an excuse for why it lost.

“Our guys did a great job not being part of the story,” he said.

Rivers was a stabilizing force for the franchise during the upheaval created by Sterling, who prolonged the ownership battle with a series of court filings before a judge upheld the team’s sale to Ballmer.

“We’re a resilient group,” said Jamal Crawford, who won the league’s Sixth Man of the Year award last season. “We showed a lot of character and heart.”

Jordan insisted the team didn’t need discord to rally around each other.

“We’ve always been close,” he said. “We were as tight as we were today three years ago.”

Despite the off-court tumult, the Clippers kept their core group together, including Matt Barnes, recent first-time father J.J. Redick, and Glen Davis. They added 7-footer Spencer Hawes to complement Jordan, re-signed Hedo Turkoglu and replaced the departed Darren Collison with another former UCLA star, Jordan Farmar.

“We have a real opportunity to do something special,” said Farmar, who left the down-trodden Lakers.

Barnes, who turns 35 in March, is especially eager to atone for the last couple of early playoff exits. He reports to camp at 210 pounds, a number he hasn’t seen since high school.

A's Lester, Royals' Shields in AL wild-card focus



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The Kansas City Royals made one of the boldest trades in franchise history two years ago. The Oakland Athletics made a similarly aggressive move just a couple of months ago.

The results of both will be in the starting spotlight Tuesday night.

For the Royals, it's "Big Game James" - James Shields, the centerpiece of a deal with the Tampa Bay Rays that finally pushed the long-downtrodden franchise into the postseason for the first time in 29 years. For the A's, it's Jon Lester - the postseason star of the Red Sox last season who was acquired by Oakland at the trading deadline just for this moment.

The one-game AL wild-card playoff. The winner advances to face the Los Angeles Angels in the best-of-five division series Thursday. The loser trudges away into the offseason.

"I've only been here for two years," Shields said Monday, "but when I got traded over here, I knew the magnitude of what this organization was headed for. And when I got here, walking around the city and talking to the fans and really relishing the 29 years, it's a special moment."

The teams share plenty of similarities: pop-gun offenses backed by strong starting pitching and two of the dominant bullpens in baseball.

They also share a significant difference: Oakland has plenty of postseason experience, making it three straight years, while Kansas City has languished near the cellar for decades.

That's the biggest reason why Royals general manager Dayton Moore got Shields and shut-down reliever Wade Davis prior to last season, trading soon-to-be AL Rookie of the Year Wil Myers and pitching prospect Jake Odorizzi to Tampa Bay.

Moore wanted a legitimate ace for the starting rotation, a pitcher who had tasted postseason success, and who could mold a young but rapidly learning Kansas City clubhouse what it takes to win on the game's biggest stage.

Shields has delivered. He's pitching to a 2.31 ERA this September, and the Royals have won four of his starts in some high-pressure games.

"If you sit back and look at it, it means everything. It was the trade that got us over the hump," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "Would we be in this situation without James Shields and Wade Davis? No. In my mind, the trade did exactly what we hoped it would do."

While the Royals were comfortable in their staff ace, the A's were still searching for their own. They already had several front-line starters, but general manager Billy Beane had been stung by postseason disappointments, and he coveted a horse for such high-leverage games.

Turns out that the Red Sox were willing to trade away just that kind of guy.

The move Beane made for Lester on July 31, shipping slugger Yoenis Cespedes to Boston, raised eyebrows around the league. And while the Oakland offense took a hit, Lester has done his part. He is 6-4 with a 2.35 ERA in 11 starts since he arrived in the Bay Area.

Now, he gets another opportunity to pitch in the postseason.

"We have a great opportunity ahead of us," said Lester, who some thought should have been the MVP of last year's World Series, when he went 2-0 with an 0.59 ERA against St. Louis.

Tuesday night will mark Lester's 12th start and 14th postseason appearance.

"We're going to give it the best shot we can and hopefully at the end of the day we're doing this again," he said. "You never know what's going to happen. This could be my last chance."

It bodes well for him that he's facing the Royals, a team that likens the left-hander to kryptonite. He went 3-0 with a 2.61 ERA against them this season, winning twice in a span of a couple weeks with Oakland. He also no-hit Kansas City in 2008.

"He has a lot of traits like Shields does. He's a competitor," Royals outfielder Alex Gordon said. "He battles out there. You can tell the way he carries himself ... Obviously his stuff is great, and that's why he's so great in the postseason. He's a bulldog."

The Royals were in a pennant race until the final weekend of the regular season, when Detroit sewed up the AL Central, but they were reasonably secure in their wild card. That wasn't the case for the A's, who nearly had to play Seattle in a one-off just for the right to play Tuesday.

All that matters now is what happens at Kauffman Stadium, between two starting pitchers who were brought to their respective teams just for this moment.

"All we can think about is this one game against Oakland," Shields said. "We get past this we have a little breathing room. We just have to really focus on this one game and go from there."



James Shields will try to lead the Kansas City Royals to the best-of-five AL division series against the Los Angeles Angels with a win over the Oakland Athletics in a wild card game. AP

Twins fire manager Ron Gardenhire after 13 seasons

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—He was the third base coach who gave Kirby Puckett a high-five to punctuate his winning homer in Game 6 of the 1991 World Series.

He was the trusting candidate who took Minnesota's managing job when many thought the Twins were about to be contracted in 2002.

He was the affable everyman who presided over the team's turn-of-the-century renaissance and turned the AL doormat into a six-time division champion.

Ron Gardenhire was just about everything in the 27 years he spent in the Twins organization. But even he couldn't survive the worst four-year stretch in franchise history.

The Twins fired Gardenhire on Monday, saying it was time for a new voice after his 13-year tenure concluded with 383 losses over the last four seasons.

"The reason for this change, I think it's safe to say, the last couple years we have not won enough games," Twins general manager Terry Ryan said. "That's what it comes down to. It's nothing more, nothing less than that."

The move was made with one season left on Gardenhire's contract, ending the second-longest active tenure in the major leagues behind Mike Scioscia of the Angels.

Gardenhire played an integral role in the franchise's turnaround, guiding the Twins to the playoffs six times in nine seasons from 2002-10. But Gardenhire's teams only got out of the first round once, and his postseason record was 6-21 with the last win coming in 2004.

The Twins have long been the model of stability in not only baseball but major professional sports, with only two managers over the last 28 years and two general managers over the last 20 seasons.

But all the losing of late became too much to overcome. Over the last four years, the Twins went 78-148 from Aug. 1 on for an abysmal .345 winning percentage.

"I'm gone, I'm outta here because we didn't win," Gardenhire said. "That's what it gets down to in baseball. That's what

it should get down to. You have to win on the field and these last four years have been tough for all of us."

The Twins finished this season at 70-92, making Gardenhire just the fourth manager in the game's history to preside over at least four straight 90-loss seasons with the same team, joining Connie Mack of the Philadelphia Athletics (nine), Zach Taylor of the St. Louis Browns (four) and his predecessor with the Twins, Tom Kelly (four). Kelly returned for one more season after his streak, and he retired after an 85-77 finish in 2001.

"One of the things we hope to get back to here is a winning culture across our organization, and not just with the major leagues," Twins President Dave St. Peter said, later adding, "That's clearly one of the goals with this move is to jumpstart that. Not to say that Ron wasn't capable of that ... but I think we believe very strongly that we've gotten away from that in recent years."

In an era when job security for managers is seemingly measured in months, Gardenhire's longevity has been truly unique. The outspoken and fiery Gardenhire quickly became one of the faces of the franchise, as synonymous with the Twins as the interlocking T and C on their caps. He took over for the revered Kelly, who won two World Series championships, just as the organization was starting to regain its footing after years of bad baseball.

"I feel like he's my brother, not my manager," said a glassy-eyed Ryan, who has known Gardenhire dating to their days together in the New York Mets system in the 1980s.

Ryan spent some time away from the organization this year to get treatment for cancer. He said Monday that a recent physical came back favorable and that he will return to the Twins next season.

Ryan offered Gardenhire a chance to remain in the organization, but Gardenhire doesn't believe he's done managing just yet.

"I would have loved to have won a World Series, but that didn't happen," Gardenhire

said. "Maybe it's still to come."

Gardenhire clashed with some players over the years, but there was an expectation and hope among the players that he would return.

"We as players had a responsibility to the organization, fans, and coaches to win this season," starting pitcher Phil Hughes tweeted. "We failed."

Gardenhire joined the organization in 1987 and was added to Kelly's staff in 1991. His record as Twins manager was 1,068-1,039. He won the American League Manager of the Year award in 2010, the last time the Twins not only made the playoffs but had a winning record.

"As good as it gets in my opinion. Comes to the park ready to win each and every day. Kind of a players' manager," second baseman Brian Dozier said last week. "Always in good spirits. He knows the game better than anybody I've been around. I 100 percent want him back."

The contracts of Gardenhire's coaches were expiring, but some of them could be brought back. Bench coach Paul Molitor is sure to be considered for Gardenhire's replacement, but Ryan's search will spread outside the organization, too.

"Sometimes people need to hear a different voice," Gardenhire said. "They need a new face. I just want this organization to win; I'll be rooting just like everybody else."

The run of futility has disillusioned a once-passionate fan base, with attendance in Target Field's fifth year the lowest for the Twins since 2004.

Owner Jim Pohlad said dwindling attendance had "virtually zero" impact on the decision and they would have brought Gardenhire back next season if Ryan recommended it.

"He connected with me and our family way more than any single person in our entire career as owners of the team," Pohlad said. "He's just a special guy. He's loved. He's loved by us. I'll always remember him as a winner."

For Heat, rival players are now new teammates

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

MIAMI (AP)—Earlier this month, it just so happened that Josh McRoberts, Danny Granger and Luol Deng all had spots on the same side of the Miami Heat locker room.

Rival Row didn't last long.

"I was like, 'OK, we've got to mix that up,'" Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

McRoberts, Granger and Deng—villains to the Heat in the past, especially in the playoffs—are rivals to Miami no more, after they became the biggest parts of the team's roster revamping this summer. Getting shifted to new spots in the locker room was the easy part; getting acclimated to the ways of the Heat will be a tad more difficult, that process officially beginning Saturday in the first practice of training camp.

"When you have those intense battles, it definitely does something to you," Granger said. "You respect the other team. You want to kill them, as much as you can in the game, but off the court you have the utmost respect for them—especially a team like Miami. What they've done the last four years

has really been incredible."

McRoberts, Granger and Deng have all had plenty of moments that raised Heat ire in the past.

Deng has scored 20 or more points 15 times against the Heat, and led the charge as he and Chicago ended Miami's franchise-record 27-game winning streak—the second-longest run in NBA history—in 2013. Granger was a stalwart of some Indiana teams that always challenged but never supplanted Miami atop the Eastern Conference, and McRoberts added intrigue to the Charlotte-Miami series last spring by throwing an elbow into LeBron James' throat.

Quite simply, they weren't liked very much in Heat land.

Those days are now gone, and respect has been born from past rivalry.

"I've made it clear to guys that when they come here and they become a part of this organization, they're part of this team," said Heat forward Udonis Haslem, who has gone up against all three new teammates plenty of times. "The stuff that we went through in the past, whether we were competing against each other or whether I gave them a hard foul or said something they might not like, that's in the past."

NMSA

From Page 28

DCCA managed to move only within 10 with less than a minute left in the match.

Basa top-scored for DCCA with his 26 points, while Rangamar finished with 17. Orrin Pharrin added 6, while Greg Iginoef and Emery Fatial logged 2 apiece. Pangelinan and Perry Inos had 14 apiece to lead DCCA.

Meanwhile, in the first game Customs limited CHC to single digit in scoring in each of the four quarters en route to the lopsided win.

CHC had an off shooting night in its debut game scoring no more than 8 in each quarter, as it fired 8 apiece in the first and third quarters and 6 each in the two other periods. Customs on the other hand, netted double figures in three of the four quarters, as it drew contributions from all

10 players who suited up in the league opener.

Kelvin Fatial paced Customs with his 13 points, while Don Tereyego chipped in 10.

First Game

Customs 61—Fatial 13, Tereyego 10, Lizama 7, Saralu 6, Pangelinan 4, J. Sablan 4, M. Reyes 4, M. Sablan 3, L. Reyes 2, Maratua 2.

CHC 28—Cariaso 10, Dunnay 7, Flores 4, Culala 2, Fernandez 2, Corotan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-8, 24-14, 42-22, 61-28.

Second Game

NMSA 56—Basa 26, Rangamar 17, Pharrin 6, Iginoef 2, Fatial 2.

DCCA 46—Pangelinan 14, Inos 14, Mangarero 5, Manabat 4, John 2, Rosario 2, R. Deleon Guerrero 2, L. Deleon Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-11, 29-14, 41-25, 56-46.

MATANSA

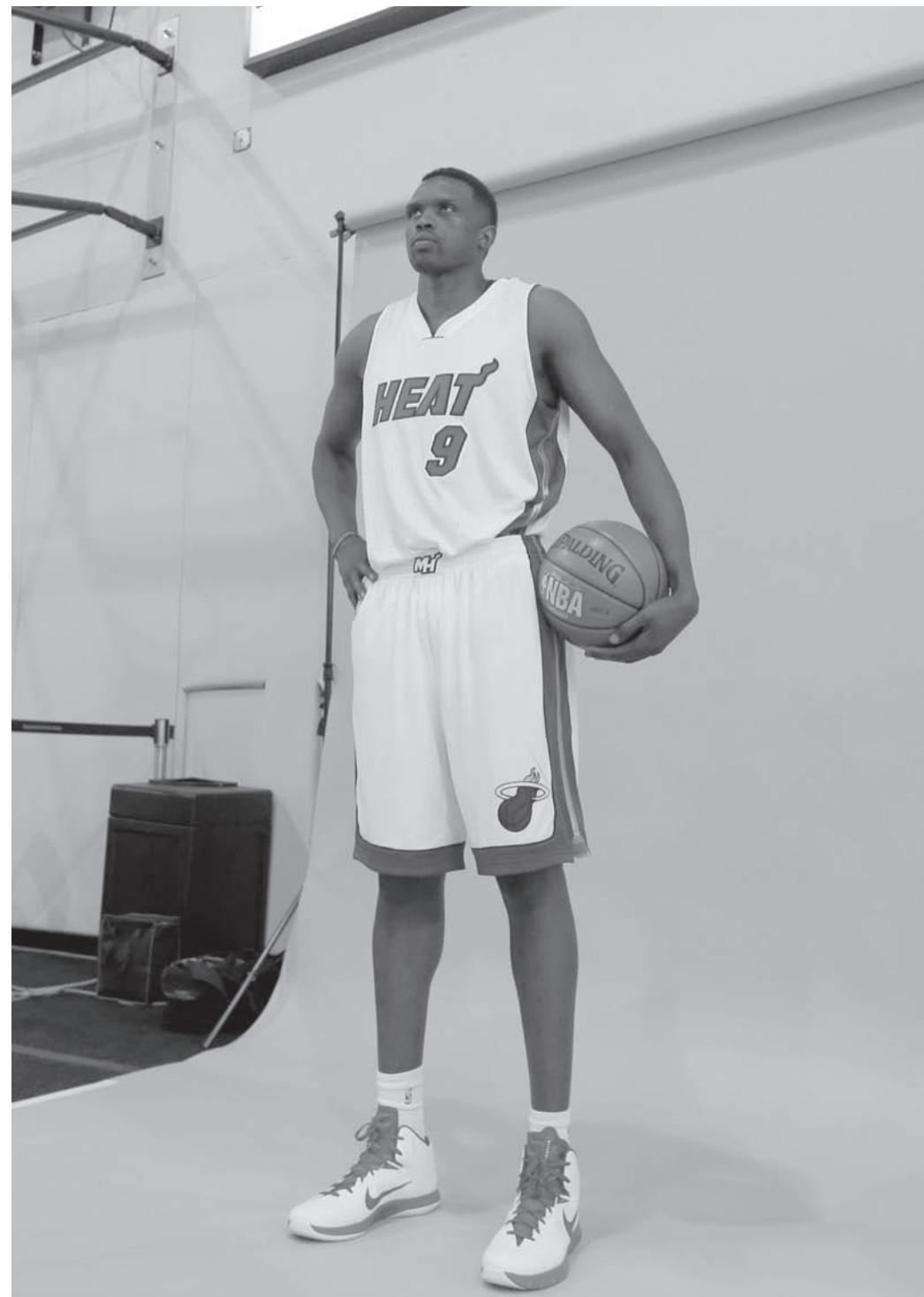
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Jurinah Navarro added three to give Kanoa Orange a 7-4 half-time lead. Diana Maniacop had a hat-trick for Shirley's Blue in the first half, while Nica Gariquez scored the other goal.

Maniacop was still at it in the second half, firing two more goals, while Marilou Gariquez also lit up the board, but Shirley's Blues' three goals were not enough to overhaul

the three-goal deficit they faced at the break. Irish Pagaraio canned two more goals for Kanoa Orange in the second half for the insurance.

In the second game, Matansa Yellow drew goals from three different players to beat Tan Holdings Green. Bernadette Horey had a pair, scoring in the first and second quarters, while Elna Curate added one in the second and Pinyarat Shanweiler hit one in the first half. Renita Fleming scored the lone goal for



AP
Miami Heat's Luol Deng poses for a photograph during an NBA basketball media day, Friday, Sept. 26, 2014, in Miami.

MCDONALD'S

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baker's dozen lead at the break, 37-24.

After an impressive second quarter, Velasco went cold and was limited to two field goals in the third, allowing McDonald's to break away with a 19-point advantage, entering the fourth period. Mike Achas, who had only one field goal in the entire first half, showed up in the third, knocking down 7 points, while the rest of his teammates also found their target to start the fourth canto with a comfortable lead.

McDonald's padded its lead

to as much as 24 early in the fourth with Mike and McClain alternately burning the hoop before the fast food chain let its guards down a bit at the halfway mark of the final canto, giving Top Development a chance to cut the deficit to as low as 9, 67-58.

Mike Achas paced McDonald's with his 19 points, while McLain contributed 13. Joseph Achas and Ricardo Cruz also finished in twin digits, firing 11 and 10, respectively, while Gapor added 9. Velasco lifted the heaviest load for Top Development, scoring 33, while Allen Reyez was the

second best scorer of the team with his 8.

Meanwhile, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Docomo Pacific played in the second game last Monday and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Wednesday edition.

McDonald's 74—Mi. Achas 19, Mc. 13, J. Achas 11, Cruz 10, Gapor 9, Deleon Guerrero 4, C. Achas 2, L. Achas 2.

Top Development 62—Velasco 33, Reyes 8, Lorenzo 7, Barros 4, Pollisco 4, Pangelinan 4, Emiliano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-8, 37-24, 57-38, 74-62.

Tan Holdings, avoiding a shut-out when she found her target in the second half.

Meanwhile, in the men's division game last Thursday, the Thundercats and Sun Palace posted contrasting wins.

The Thundercats outclassed Matansa in the first match, 3-2. Hobin Lee led the Thundercats, drilling two goals in the first half. The Thundercats other goal was also registered in the first half, courtesy of Don Cabrera.

Mohamad Hafizul Islam and TJ Gurung found the back of the net, too in the first 25 minutes of play, but both were without goals in the second half, as Matansa fell short of forcing a draw.

In the second game, Sun Palace had four goals apiece in the opening and closing halves to win its first match in the league at the expense of Kanoa Orange, 8-3.

Piao Heng Guo lifted Sun Palace to its debut win after making

McRoberts entered free agency this year not knowing who would call, but not expecting interest from Miami. But ultimately, he, Deng and Granger all found themselves being placed very highly on Miami's free-agency wish list.

And it's probably no coincidence that each had proven worthy adversaries to the Heat in the past.

"I'd like to think all three of us aren't fun guys to play against," McRoberts said. "I hated playing against Luol. I hated playing against Danny. But we're all guys you want on your team, in terms of toughness and competitiveness and what we're willing to do to win basketball games."

Granger has spent nearly his entire career with Indiana, entertained talks about returning to the Pacers this summer and began re-thinking his commitment to Miami again after James revealed that he was going back to his original team, the Cleveland Cavaliers.

But even though he found it strange to pull a Heat jersey on, Granger believes he made the right call.

"The plus side is I get to play with a new group of guys," Granger said. "It's Miami, you know what I mean? I get the sunshine, we've got a dock behind our house, I go fishing with my son. There's a lot of benefit to playing down here."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	2	2	0	.500	80	80
Buffalo	2	2	0	.500	79	75
Miami	2	2	0	.500	96	97
N.Y. Jets	1	3	0	.250	79	96

South

Houston	3	1	0	.750	87	67
Indianapolis	2	2	0	.500	136	95
Tennessee	1	3	0	.250	60	110
Jacksonville	0	4	0	.000	58	152

North

Cincinnati	3	1	0	1.000	80	33
Baltimore	3	1	0	.750	103	60
Pittsburgh	2	2	0	.500	97	99
Cleveland	1	2	0	.333	74	77

West

San Diego	3	1	0	.750	102	63
Denver	2	1	0	.667	75	67
Kansas City	2	2	0	.500	102	79
Oakland	0	4	0	.000	51	103

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	3	1	0	.750	122	104
Dallas	3	1	0	.750	115	86
N.Y. Giants	2	2	0	.500	103	91
Washington	1	3	0	.250	95	109

South

Atlanta	2	2	0	.500	131	113
Carolina	2	2	0	.500	73	96
New Orleans	1	3	0	.250	95	110
Tampa Bay	1	3	0	.250	72	119

North

Detroit	3	1	0	.750	85	62</
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Saipan International School Fun Run

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ



The Ruszalas cross the finish line of last month's Saipan International School Fun Run at Banzai Cliff.



An exhausted runner still pushes himself.



A young runner is just a few meters away from completing the race.



Two runners keep their pace, while one tries to catch up a few meters away from the finish line.



A young runner slows down.



Bruce Berline smiles as he nears the finish line.



Two SIS students engage in a close race.



Tennis player Lydia Tan, third from left, joins a small group of runners heading to the finish line.



Two runners share a good laugh as they near the finish line.

Two female runners keep their steady form heading into the last few meters of the race.



**Charles sends
Chiefs to
41-14 rout
of Patriots**
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Saipan Tribune Sports

**A's Lester,
Royals' Shields
in AL wild-
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMSA, Customs hammer foes



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association and Customs pummeled their respective opponents in the opening of the 2014 IT&E-DYS Inter-Government Basketball League last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Customs was pitted against Commonwealth Health Center and coasted to a 61-28 victory in the first game, while NMSA challenged the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs in the nightcap and walked away with a 56-46 triumph.

NMSA dominated DCCA despite playing with only five players in the first half and six in the second with Mike Babauta suiting up in the third period. The first 20 minutes of play ended with NMSA ahead, 29-14, as it held DCCA to 3 points in the entire second quarter. DCCA had only one field goal off Perry Inos drive early in the second canto and drew one free throw from Edgar Pangelinan

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Northern Marianas Sports Association's Greg Iginoef drives against two Department of Community and Cultural Affairs defenders during the fourth quarter of their game in the IT&E-DYS inter-government caging last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

before going scoreless for seven minutes.

DCCA bled for points despite fielding an 11-man roster, while Preston Basa and Elias Rangamar made up for NMSA's lack of manpower to give their team a double-digit lead at the break. Basa finished the half



with 14 points, while Rangamar chipped in 11.

Basa continued to lead NMSA offense in the third, drilling 8 of the team's first 10 points, while DCCA remained scoreless in the first four minutes of that period to face a 39-14 deficit. A triple from Pangelinan ended DCCA's silence and he tried to anchor a second-half rally, but failed to get help from his teammates.

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Matansa Yellow, Kanoa Orange triumph in futsal

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Matansa Yellow and Kanoa Orange prevailed in the women's division games in the 2014 Saipan Soccer School Futsal Fall League last Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Matansa Yellow downed Tan Holdings Green in the second match, 4-2, while Kanoa Orange edged Shirley's Blue in the curtain-

raiser. Kanoa Orange built enough cushion in the first half of the 50-minute match to prevent Shirley's Blue for making a comeback. Kanoa Orange drilled seven goals in the first half with four of them coming from Irish Pagarao.

See MATANSA on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tan Holdings Green's Renita Fleming, center, stops the ball, while Matansa Yellow's Maile Aldrich steps in for defense during the first half of their game in the SSS futsal league at the TSL Sports Complex.

McDonald's eases past Top Development



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 McDonald's won its debut in the 2014 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League after outclassing Top Development, Inc., 74-62, in the curtain-raiser last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

McDonald's took early control of the match and withstood Top Development's repeated comebacks in the second half

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
McDonald's Mike Achas loses the ball after being hammered by Top Development, Inc. defenders during the fourth quarter of their game in the JP World caging last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

to barge into the win column in its first try and join opening day winners Micronesian Brokers, Inc./Anchor and Shirley's Cofee Shop.

Four McDonald's players scored at least two baskets apiece in the opening period to give their team a 20-8 advantage. While several McDonald's players hit the board in the first quarter, Top Development had trouble getting its shooting touch, as only Sefich Lorenzo canned more than a field goal in that canto.

Top Development then picked up its scoring in the second frame with Raymond Velasco finding his rhythm and drilling 12 points in that period. However, Gil Gapor and McLain and Joseph Achas teamed up for 14 markers to offset Velasco's production and lift McDonald's to a

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